

FREE

# Kent on Sunday

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WEEKLY FREE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

North&West edition No 646



London and South of England Media Awards

## ENVIRONMENT

### Street lighting 'smoke and mirrors'

Is LED scheme to  
turn them back on  
quite what it seems?

## PROFILE

### Face-to-face with Iain Dale

We talk politics  
with award-winning  
broadcaster

## HISTORY

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## Murray's MP push may not be as daft as it seems

UNDER normal circumstances, the addition of a 'comedy' character to an election is a bit of a silly distraction.

After all (to steal a line from Blackadder), no one would really want the Standing at the Back, Dressed Stupidly and Looking Stupid Party to actually ever get elected.

Despite the sometimes lacklustre political candidates we have to select, for the good of the entire constituency you do actually want a candidate returned to Westminster who you feel will conduct themselves with some dignity and intelligence amid the corridors of power.

I suspect my lack of a sense of humour at this sort of thing was my frustration of being politically alert in my teens, yet having to watch my school chums vote in the 'Bring a Bottle Party' when we had a poll to coincide with the 1987 general election.

Isn't politics supposed to be a



Editor **Chris Britcher**

serious thing, I boringly assumed?

Yet the addition of Al Murray's Pub Landlord to the South Thanet candidate sheet isn't quite as excruciating as it could be. Clearly, he's not going to win, but his approach and lampooning of certain policies rather highlights how daft the concepts of some of them are...

Remarkably, you wouldn't entirely rule out his influence actually having some bearing on the final result. After all, he only has to pull some votes and it could topple the

balance elsewhere. What's more,

the additional publicity he is bringing to a seat which was already teed-up to be something rather special anyway, courtesy of Mr Farage, should mean that if South Thanet doesn't get a strong turn-out, nowhere will. And that,

ultimately, has to be a good thing surely?

Enjoy this week's edition and have a good weekend.

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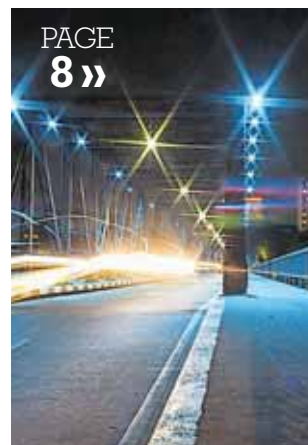
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## Airport's £4.4m scheme takes wing amid criticism

by Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

PLANS for a multi-million pound rejuvenation of Rochester Airport were cleared for take off on Thursday - leaving opponents fuming at what they term merely "a vanity project".

Full planning permission was given by Medway Council which will see £4.4 million of taxpayers' money ploughed into breathing new life into the site.

It will include installing a paved runway, decommissioning one of the two existing grass runways for a high-tech business park, plus the building of a new control tower and office facilities. It will not become a major commercial airport, but hopes to build on its current client base.

Deputy leader of Medway Council, Alan Jarrett, said: "We aim to safeguard aviation for business, heritage and leisure use in this well-connected location as well as releasing new land for jobs in Medway."

"Now these plans have been approved, we can look forward to work commencing later in the year."

"Public investment will be more



**READY:** One grass runway at the site will remain - the other turned into a high-tech business park

than repaid from the development of high-tech business facilities, which will bring new jobs and increasing prosperity to Medway."

It is thought it will provide up to 1,000 jobs

However, the opposition Labour group have slammed the decision.

They say it flies in the face of public opinion. Medway Labour's community spokesperson Glyn Griffiths said: "This announcement by the airport obsessed Tories at Medway Council

highlights to residents just how out of touch the Tories are both locally and nationally."

"For their colleagues in Government to approve the hard paving of Rochester airport's runway at the cost of £4.4m whilst rejecting improvements to Chatham and Strood railway stations, improvements which would have brought about much needed regeneration, is beyond belief."

"We surveyed close to a thousand

residents in Medway late last year and asked them what they would spend £4.4m of taxpayer's money on in the community."

"The results we received from Medway residents unearthed no support whatsoever for taxpayer's money to be spent on concreting over a runway."

"What it did unearth however was the need for better local roads, cleaner streets and more money to be put into fixing potholes."

## Prisons inspector raps out warning over court custody conditions

COURT custody facilities have been told to improve by the chief inspector of prisons, Nick Hardwick.

It follows the findings of a report by the independent HM Inspectorate of Prisons into the two crown courts and eight magistrates' courts in the county.

Key complaints were that the management of custody was fragmented and ineffectual and that responsibility for custody was split between several organisations whose staff rarely met together, and none had overall responsibility for the whole operation.

Inspectors were also concerned to find that custody staff were allowed little discretion, resulting in disproportionate and unreasonable treatments, such as the handcuffing of women and children; at some courts, there were too few custody staff to ensure detainees were safe; the care of detainees, including those vulnerable due to ill health and age, or because they had attempted to

self-harm, were given very little importance; the condition of the custody suites was among the worst inspectors had seen, with many cells covered in obscene or racist graffiti; and the cleaning and maintenance contractor was not fulfilling the terms of their contract.

It was not all bad, however, with the county praised for its use of so-called 'virtual courts' where detainees appear via video link.

Mr Hardwick said: "Those detained at Kent courts should be held in a safer and more decent environment than is currently in place."

"This report contains recommendations we hope will encourage the various agencies involved to work together more effectively to eliminate the serious problems we found."

Crown courts in Canterbury and Maidstone and magistrates in Sevenoaks, Margate, Maidstone, Dartford, Medway, Canterbury, Dover and Folkestone were part of the inspection, conducted last July.

## Fishermen warned after sea trout spotted on their boat

TWO fishermen have been given formal warning after illegally retaining sea trout on their boat after fishing off our coast.

Sea trout are under threat from not only illegal netting, but also from pollution, habitat degradation and impassable weirs in some rivers.

Each large female fish can potentially lay thousands of eggs, so the loss of just one or two fish

from localised breeding populations can have a significant impact.

The Environment Agency made the warning after enforcement officers for the Marine Management Organisation spotted the fisherman.

The only wild salmon and sea trout that can be sold legally must have been caught in licensed net fisheries.

## Gills close in on Edinburgh in hunt for Taylor replacement

GILLINGHAM seemed set to unveil Justin Edinburgh as their new manager this weekend after talks to secure his services continued throughout Friday.

The former Spurs star is currently boss of League Two Newport County. The Welsh club allowed Gillingham chairman Paul Scally to talk to the former player and reports suggest he is keen to

switch to Priestfield. The stumbling block was the issue of compensation to Newport if a deal was agreed.

All the indicators suggest a deal will be struck between the two parties and Edinburgh will be officially unveiled at Priestfield over the coming days.

The Gills have been without a boss since Peter Taylor was sacked at the end of last year.



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## Site of Rolling Stones history receives plaque

A PLAQUE was unveiled on Thursday to mark the place where rock legends Mick Jagger and Keith Richards had the conversation which would lead to the creation of the Rolling Stones.

It has been put on up platform 2 of Dartford railway station to mark the moment on October 17, 1961, the former primary school pals were reunited and

discovered they both had a love of music.

The current head of Mick Jagger's former school and the mayor of Dartford unveiled the plaque.

Council leader Jeremy Kite said: "I hope in the years ahead rail passengers will enjoy looking at the plaque and realising the part the station played in bringing the Rolling Stones together."



**MOVING:** Enclosure being built now

## Chimp convoy to jet into park this summer

A GROUP of chimpanzees are set to jet into a purpose-built facility at a popular wildlife park this summer.

The creatures will be flown in from a facility in the US to the Wingham Wildlife Park, near Canterbury.

Park owner Tony Binskin said: "We have wanted to bring chimpanzees to the county since we took over the park and have been working on such a project for around four years now.

"This is certainly going to be our biggest venture to date, and everyone is very excited about it.

"This is very precious cargo, and we are adamant that all the chimpanzees arrive at the park safely, as quickly as possible and as a whole group in a single trip."

Park chiefs are now looking to team up with an airline to help them transport the chimps.

The educational value of primates will allow the team at Wingham Wildlife Park to help educate the more than 400 schools that visit the site every year.

Mr Binskin added: "From the social interactions, politics and team work present in so many aspects of primate society, there really is a lot we can learn from some of our closest relatives. This exhibit is going to give us a great chance to help our visitors learn these lessons."

## Stack row rolls into the House of Commons as PM joins solution debate

by Molly Kersey

molly.kersey@archant.co.uk

PRIME minister David Cameron has waded into the debate over chaos caused by Operation Stack, after vowing his Government would hold an "urgent review" into the problem.

It follows several days of problems last month when delays at the Channel Tunnel saw Stack implemented.

It turns part of the M20 into a lorry park to ease the congestion heading to the ports at Dover of the Channel Tunnel just outside Folkestone. As a consequence, other motorway traffic is forced onto our A-roads.

Mr Cameron had been asked about the Government's response during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons on Wednesday by Dover MP, the Tory Charlie Elphicke.

Mr Elphicke asked: "Will the prime minister support finding a long term solution to this problem a national strategic priority and con-



**PRESSURE:** David Cameron

sider using lorry levied funds to help pay for it?"

In response, the PM said: "I understand [Mr Elphicke] has met with my

right honourable friend the roads minister.

"As a result we have ordered an urgent review to locate the contingency arrangements for the M20, A20 and for the M2 and A2 in the event of severe disruption at the Eurotunnel and Channel ports taking note of the recent congestion.

"It's important we learn the lessons from this incident and if this report comes up with good suggestions then obviously we will look at them carefully."

Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said: "Any solutions need to be sustainable to both improve management of traffic to and from the port, and to meet the day-to-day needs of town traffic.

"Local businesses, residents and visitors need to be assured that these matters are addressed once and for all.

"To this end, we have agreed the A20 junction works should be postponed until the autumn and the outcome of the review ordered by the roads minister, and further assessments are carried out."

## RSPCA probe after cat caught in a trap

AN INVESTIGATION is under way after a cat had its leg crushed after it became caught in an illegal metal trap.

Aqua, a female tortoiseshell, thought to be around a year old, was found stuck by a passer-by next to a hedge in a front garden in Marshall Gardens in Hadlow, near Tonbridge on January 29.

Her left back leg was trapped in the illegal metal trap, which had sharp, serrated jaws that were closed around it.

She was taken to a vet where she is still being treated for a badly infected wound.

It was at first feared the leg may have to be amputated. Unfortunately, the vet's bills are so high, her owners have had to hand her to the RSPCA to care for.

RSPCA inspector Andrew Kirby said: "I can't imagine the amount of pain and distress this poor cat must have felt. We're keen to hear from anyone who may have information about who

## Airport expansions slammed by CPRE

A COUNTRYSIDE campaign group has slammed the options for runway expansion at Gatwick and Heathrow branding the proposals environmentally destructive.

Responding to the Airports Commission consultation - which closed last Tuesday - the Kent branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England was one of 50,000 respondents to the 12-week consultation.

Hilary Newport, director of CPRE Kent, said: "This has brought misery to many people living in the west of the county.

"The importance of tranquillity cannot be overstated - it is the main reason why people enjoy the countryside and can prevent stress and aid people's enjoyment of exercise and play."

Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells and Sevenoaks' councils have all expressed their opposition to the proposals.

Findings of the commission, set the task of examining airport capacity in the south east, will be

## Special school faces potential closure

A SCHOOL for children with special needs could be forced to close.

The Furness School in Swanley has capacity for 60 students, but currently caters for just 31. It takes in children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

A combination of lack of demand and debts has now prompted Kent County Council to launch a public consultation into a proposal to close the school at the end of August.

It started this week and will run until March 25.

Previously put into special measures after an Ofsted inspection in 2012, the latest report, in December 2013, found it to be 'requiring improvement'.

Once the consultation period is over - and it will include special meetings and drop-in sessions at the school - feedback will be discussed at the KCC education cabinet committee on April 15.

A decision will then be made.

KCC says special provision for those with ASD would be provided at the Hugh Christie Technology



# agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

## Stars of QI in special show for uni's 50th

A STAR-studded version of the BBC's hugely popular panel show QI will take place at the University of Kent on Monday as part of the educational institution's 50th birthday celebrations.

Regular panellists Alan Davies, Sandi Toksvig, Jo Brand and Phill Jupitus will be taking part, as well

as QI creator and producer John Lloyd, who will stand in for regular host Stephen Fry.

Mr Lloyd, who produced the likes of Blackadder, Not the Nine O'Clock News and Spitting Image, said: "I genuinely can't wait to put this on. We've got an unbeatable line-up of panellists, a fabulous venue, the



whole QI research team behind us and it's all for an excellent cause. What's not to get excited about? It's going to be an absolute hoot." All tickets have sold out.

## Countryside pylon route consultation set to begin

FULL details of the proposed route for the Richborough Connection will be announced on Tuesday.

The power link will see pylons stretching from Richborough to Canterbury. It will pump electricity delivered under the Channel from Belgian - known as the Nemo

Link - into the National Grid.

The consultation period runs until the end of March with a host of public events being staged.

Details revealed this week will include the type of pylon to be used and their height. The environmental impact has already caused controversy.

## ...also

### Shrek heads to Marlowe

WEST End hit Shrek The Musical rolls into Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre this week to kick off a string of shows.

Its run starts on Tuesday and continues until March 1. Critically acclaimed, it is based on the hit movie.

### Budget set for meeting

TONBRIDGE and Malling Borough Council's cabinet meets on Thursday, with setting the budget and council tax for the upcoming financial year on the agenda.

The meeting takes place at the council offices at Kings Hill.

### Make time to volunteer

VOLUNTEERS are being urged to sign up to assist the Thanet Community Support Partnership.

Those who can offer time to pop in and see people should visit the website [thanetcommunitysupport.org](http://thanetcommunitysupport.org) for details.

### Steve's 10,000 BC trip

BROADSTAIRS adventurer Steve Nicholson, 53, can be seen this week as he stars in Channel 5's 10,000BC.

The 53-year-old is part of a group in the Bulgarian wilderness who have to survive as our Stone Age ancestors would have.

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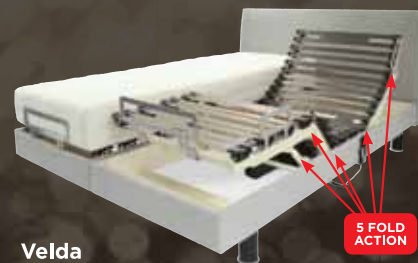
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# KCC accused of 'classic smoke and mirrors' over controversial light plan

The latest war of words has erupted after Kent County Council was accused of a U-turn over its street light switch-off plan. But is its £40m LED scheme quite what it seems? It could take years to secure the necessary funding and years to then install. **Molly Kersey** takes a look at the saga's latest chapter

**C**RITICS have slammed Kent County Council (KCC) for taking a 'smoke and mirrors' approach in the latest twist to its controversial street light switch-off plans.

Many across the county have expressed unease over the scheme so far, which has seen a trial switch off of lights in certain areas during the early hours of the morning.

It has sparked concerns it raises the fear of crime and could cause accidents. KCC insists it will save around £1 million-a-year in electricity bills.

Although the trial data will not be examined until later this year, there is a demand for the lights to go back on.

Now, though, the county council has merged the debate over the lights with potential plans to spend £40m on replacing the lights with energy-saving LED bulbs.

That, it now says, could mean all the lights going back on during the hours of darkness.

But the LED scheme requires the

council to obtain the £40m needed to pay for it through grants – money that could take years to secure.

Changing the lights over is also a process which could take three years to complete.

All of which has led opponents of the plan to claim KCC chiefs are deliberately looking to confuse the public by muddying two separate issues.

"I think it's classic smoke and mirrors by the Kent County Council Conservative administration," said Labour local and county councillor Mike Eddy.

"Yes, it's a sensible thing to do, but the sensible thing to have done would have been to get that loan a few years back and start that process rather than switching the lights off."

When KCC originally announced the LED plans last year, it said it was an entirely separate issue to the current switch-off trial.

Tim Prater, Liberal Democrat parish councillor for Sandgate, near Folkestone, said: "It's quite clear they were told they were making a terrible

**“ They made a terrible mistake and are now trying to work their way out without putting their hands up and admitting what people said was true ”**

**Tim Prater,**  
Liberal Democrat councillor

mistake. They made a mistake and they are now trying to work their way out of a terrible mistake without putting their hands up and admitting that what people told them was true.

"It would be an awful lot more honest if they started with the opening line 'we got that wrong, let's fix it' instead of acting like they are trying to present it as a massive

step forward. It's their fault."

David Brazier, KCC cabinet member for environment and transport who is spearheading the plans, denied the allegations.

He said: "There are those who have talked of U-turns and egg on face, but LED is a great force for growth."

"We recognise that our lighting scheme has upset some members of the public. They associate street lighting with discouraging crime and making accidents less likely."

"We meet with Kent Police on a regular basis and they have indicated that there has been no overall increase in crime since the introduction of part-night lighting."

"However, many residents want all night lighting and this will be affordable with LED technology while delivering huge savings in energy and carbon tax."

Labour's Mike Eddy agreed that, environmentally, LED is a better solution but KCC still had a case to answer.

He explained: "I am very much in favour of that move, but it's going to

take at least three years and it would have been infinitely better to do it first."

"The amount they are saving is peanuts when you look at the annual general budget."

Trudy Dean, leader of the Liberal Democrats on KCC, added: "There's a certain lack of clarity about what's actually intended. I think it's the right decision to go to LED."

"If they are returning the lights then they must have accepted the argument that, from a safety point of view, that is what people want."

Subject to budget and affordability, conversion to LED could start later this year or early 2016. It would take three years to complete.

In the meantime, areas where street lights have been turned off will have to continue to put up with the darkness.

KCC rolled out a two phase switch-off programme.

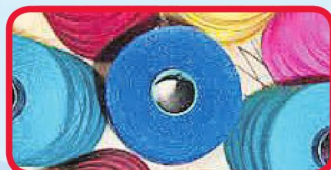
Phase one involved around 2,500 selected street lights being switched off in areas where they would not

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**SHINE:** The street light debate has sparked fierce discussions for both sides of the argument

have been installed if they had been built today.

Phase two involved part-night lighting, with some lights being turned off between midnight and 5.30am or 1am and 6.30am during

summer time.

The 70,000 lights that have part-night lighting installed make up about 60 per cent of those owned by Kent County Council.

The year-long trial will be reviewed

in coming months, when KCC will consult with police to see if there has been any impact on crime and crashes.

The council says that lights will be switched on in the areas which have seen a rise.

Many, however, say the switch-off plan has been a simple failure.

A Right to Light e-petition in Gravesend hopes to secure the 10,000 signatures needed to force a KCC debate on the issue.

An initial petition swiftly collected the 1,500 names needed to trigger a debate at Gravesham Borough Council.

Now, the organiser, Tina Brooker, insists she is closing in on the 10,000 mark.

She started the e-petition after people tried to break into her disabled neighbour's house.

She explained: "There are so many night workers – care workers, taxi drivers, hospital workers. Even if crime is not rising on their streets, their fear of crime is and people are feeling vulnerable."

Others have echoed this view too.

Councillor Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi is the Labour parliamentary candidate for the Gravesham seat.

He said: "While it's to be welcomed that we are moving down that line, which will be more environmentally friendly, in the interim we should be having the lights switched back on."

"There's no saying when the LED lights will be in place and when we will have that central controlled system."

"On the door step it's a constant feature whereby residents along various streets are not happy with the situation, especially care workers and people doing night shift work. They are constantly complaining that they are tripping up on the pavement as they are coming back and using torches on the way back to the front door."

"They are fearful of being attacked. "We are just putting up with a situation that's not desirable. All we can do is petition and complain."

A spokesperson for Kent Police said: "It is too early to say if switching street lights off has had an impact on crime. We monitor crime levels closely and continue to liaise with KCC on a regular basis so that any observations or concerns can be raised."



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# Academy confirms crunch talks with Government over its future

Leaders of troubled school meet with Department for Education and sponsors over immediate plans

**K**ENT's poorest performing secondary school is in talks with the Department for Education about its future after coming eighth from bottom in the national GCSE league tables, **writes Sarah Linney.**

Its senior leadership team says the outcome of the discussions - between the Government department and the school's sponsors - will be announced 'within weeks'.

The Marlowe Academy, in Ramsgate, achieved the worst GCSE results in the county last year, with just 13 per cent of pupils getting five A\* to C grades including English and maths.

And last year's Year Seven intake attracted just 32 Year 7 pupils, despite having capacity for 180.

While there is no suggestion the school is to close - it is not in special measures, from which it extricated itself in 2013 - serious questions are being asked about how it is to move forward from here.

It is all a far cry from the high hopes amid which the school opened ten years ago in a shiny new £30 million building. Reborn from the ashes of the failing Ramsgate School, the Marlowe was the first school in Kent to become an academy and was bankrolled by Saga billionaire Roger de Haan, who has poured millions into philanthropic projects in east Kent.

Yet fewer than one pupil in seven is achieving the Government's expected standard at GCSE. Five GCSEs at A\* to C, including maths and English, is the benchmark score for GCSEs. The

Government's target for schools is that 40 per cent of pupils should achieve this.

Education consultant Peter Read is a former Gravesend head teacher who now advises on school appeals and admissions through his consultancy, Kent Independent Education Advice. He said the school stands on the cusp of becoming unviable because it would be unable to offer a broad curriculum at GCSE with such small numbers.

"I can't see how it can survive," Mr Read said. He highlighted the issue in last weekend's KoS when he revealed the admission numbers for last September.

"They won't be able to afford small classes at GCSE because their funding is linked to the number of pupils. Their funding is drying up fast and they are employing unqualified teachers.

"Vocational courses are supposed to be their specialism, but their value-added score is below average."

Although the school had emerged in 2013 from special measures, which it had been placed in in 2012, in November last year it was still graded as 'requiring improvement' and the report criticised leadership, the lack of qualified teachers and exam results.

Inspector Alan Taylor-Bennett wrote: "Senior leaders, the trustees and the sponsor are not taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the last inspection.

"There has been significant turno-

ver of senior team members and a high turnover of staff in September.

"Less than a third of students made the progress expected of them in mathematics, and only 29 per cent achieved a grade C or better. Outcomes in science collapsed, as did examination results in humanities; achievement in the sixth form also declined, and the A-level pass rate fell to only 58 per cent.

"Only around half the teaching is good or better. Students' ambitions and aspirations are generally too low."

However, he said that pupil numbers were expected to increase from 2018, meaning the academy was viable in the long term.

Neither the latest Ofsted report or letter to the parents detailing the results, can be found on its website.

"There is a lack of honesty about the mess they are in," Mr Read said.

"They have misled, or attempted to mislead, parents and the community. They will not face up to their situation."

To some extent, allowances need to be made for the school, which takes a lot of children from deprived backgrounds - and sees the area's most academic pupils go to the grammar schools.

But Mr Read said: "It's not an excuse to be the eighth worst in the country.

"It doesn't have to be like this. Hartsdown Academy [in neighbouring Margate] got a good Ofsted, even though it has a deprived clientele too; the head is honest about the issues.

"If the school closes, the children will be shoved somewhere else. Long term it would be better if they went to

**“ There are now detailed discussions taking place about further improvement measures. We will give more details within the next few weeks. ”**

**Sean Hislop,**  
Executive principal

other schools, but disruption is never good - these are children, some of them from the most deprived parts of Thanet, who have been badly served by the Marlowe Academy and have not had a good education."

If the school was under KCC control, more drastic steps may have already been taken. This time last year, the county council took the decision to close the Chaucer secondary in Canterbury due to dwindling numbers and poor results.

But as an academy, the Marlowe can continue.

However, the Department of Education can intervene if necessary to turn things around - or close it.

School vice-president Will Pemberton told KoS last week that the number of pupils applying for this September had increased, although he did not say by how many.

"League tables do not illustrate the

full picture," he added.

A spokesman for the Department for Education said: "Acting decisively on underperformance is a key part of our plan for education.

"We are in discussion with the Marlowe Academy's sponsors and leadership team about how to ensure the best education for its pupils."

Sean Hislop, executive principal at the school, said: "Building on from the good work that began 12 months ago, there are now detailed discussions taking place with the Department for Education and Kent County Council, as co-sponsors, about further improvement measures and we will be in a position to give more detail about these within the next few weeks."

Roger de Haan was unavailable for comment when approached.

Compounding the school's misery will be East Kent College's announcement it is to open a new vocational school in Thanet for 14 to 16-year-olds, offering courses in two subjects: early years and childcare, and catering and hospitality.

However, Sara Woodward, director of 14-19 at the college, said that the school's small size - it will take just 64 pupils, 32 in each year - meant it was unlikely to have any real effect on admissions at other schools.

She said: "There will be an impact, but I wouldn't have thought that it would be for one school - and by 2018 Thanet will have a surplus of pupils."

What do you think of the Marlowe Academy's predicament? Share your views and join the debate. Email us at [editorial@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:editorial@kosmedia.co.uk).



# Fighting for their very survival

**Molly Kersey** speaks to the Kent academic raising awareness of the plight of the highly-intelligent great ape – the orangutan – as it struggles to survive the destruction of its rainforest home...

**Y**OU may be surprised to learn how similar orangutans are to their evolutionary relative, the human.

The babies cry when they need food, whimper if they get hurt and smile at their mothers.

They are pretty intelligent too. The large animals, who are generally quite gentle, have the ability to reason and they spend their lives up in the trees keeping out of the way of predators.

It is perhaps fitting that their name literally translates as "person of the forest".

"They are one of the great apes and they are very intelligent," said MidKent College conservationist Ant Finch, who works at the Medway campus.

"They're a nice species. They are iconic, important and lovely and they are very special in their own way."

But, sadly, the gentle giants face real trouble out in the wild.

And it is the work of another Kent academic which is shedding light on the struggles they face - and a possible solution.

Research conducted by Dr Matthew Struebig, of the University of Kent's Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, has identified some 42,000km<sup>2</sup> of land that could serve as potential orangutan refuges, providing relatively safe new habitats where the great apes could reside safely.

This means that if necessary the apes could be moved there from their current location.

The endangered animals used to live spread out across south east Asia where they could roam free across the wide expanses of rainforest.

Now, logging, destruction of the forests to make way for plantations and fires have limited the once abundant rainforests to very little intact areas, with the number of orangutans seeing a significant decrease as a result.

Large parts of the original forests have been taken away and replaced by things like palm oil plantations



**HOPE:** Dr Struebig's research has identified land that could serve as potential orangutan refuges where the great apes would be able to reside safely

(see box) or cities and villages.

They also face danger from poachers, with the adults being killed for their meat and the babies being sold to keep as pets.

And further trouble lies ahead.

Some 74 per cent of current orangutan habitat in Borneo - which covers Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei - could become unsuitable for them due to climate and land-cover changes.

Climate change could reduce their

food stock, with a longer dry season limiting the amount of fruit they have to eat. But Dr Struebig's research could help.

"It could potentially be important for translocation decisions," he explained.

"The findings provide a whole set of possible scenarios that you can consider and test against.

"We can show best case or worst case scenarios and then guide development in a positive direction."

Dr Struebig was joined by colleagues from Liverpool John Moores University and the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research and contributions were made by conservation scientists from Australia and Indonesia, in consultation with leading orangutan experts based in the Malaysian and Indonesian parts of Borneo.

The researchers are hoping the findings will make a difference to conservation efforts on the ground.

So what kind of areas do the orangutans need to be in to thrive?

"They need large areas of forests," Dr Struebig explains, "they need fruiting trees and they need areas that are relatively well protected because they are hunted."

Part of the work was conducted by

the Centre for International Forestry in Indonesia.

Researchers used satellite images to map the deforestation and estimate the areas of forest change that are expected in the future.

They mapped land that was unsuitable for oil palm agriculture.

Using this alongside the information they had on orangutan ecology and climate, they could identify the environmentally stable habitats for the species.

The climate change depleting their food resources is also posing a problem. With their living space shrinking and food getting more scarce, some orangutans are wandering into plantations to try and eat food such as palm oil seedlings, and they are seen as pests. The result is often they are shot. So what can we do?

"I think the first step is awareness, so people know what's actually happening," MidKent College conservationist Ant Finch explains.

"The situation isn't getting any better. On a worldwide scale when you look at all species, to lose one would be terrible in our lifetime.

"If the orangutan went in our generation it would be really, really catastrophic."

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New plantations are being developed and existing ones are being expanded in Indonesia, Malaysia and other Asian countries, at the expense of tropical forest – which forms critical habitat for the orangutans.



**ENDANGERED:** Expansion of palm oil plantations is the main threat





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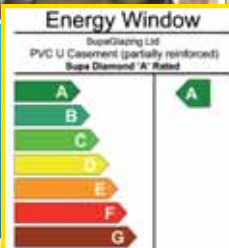
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**BROADCASTER:** Iain Dale has lived in Pembury for many years with his partner

# Dale tunes in to take nation's political pulse

He's stood as an MP, is an award-winning radio  
 presenter, popular broadcaster and a publisher.  
**Sarah Linney** meets political pundit Iain Dale

**A**T Portcullis House - a parliament-  
 ary building in Westminster just  
 across the road from the House of  
 Commons which bulges with the  
 offices of MPs, civil servants and  
 political advisors - I am about to meet Iain Dale.

A political commentator who appears regu-  
 larly on national TV, a weekday radio presen-  
 ter for talk station LBC, the owner of a publish-  
 ing house and a former Tory prospective  
 parliamentary candidate, he has become an  
 influential voice at a fascinating moment in  
 British politics.

His political blog has become essential read-  
 ing to many and despite a somewhat roller-  
 coaster career trying to make it into Westmin-  
 ister, he now has settled as an award-winning

broadcaster, writer and publisher.

He lives in Pembury, near Tunbridge Wells.  
 When he arrives, he's tall, polite, articulate  
 and talkative.

"I was going to be a German teacher," the  
 52-year-old, who grew up in Essex and studied  
 the language at the University of East Anglia,  
 tells me.

"My parents are farmers, but I knew from  
 the age of five I wasn't cut out for farming.

"My life took a different course."

That course began at the tender age of 11,  
 when a young Iain, influenced by his grand-  
 mother, became interested in the 1974 gener-  
 al election.

"I remember writing a little manifesto and  
 telling my parents why they should vote La-



bour. They told me to go back to bed," he said.

A brief stint as a member of the Liberal Party was brought to a swift end by the influence of Margaret Thatcher.

"I heard her make a speech and I thought, I agree with all of that, and never looked back," Mr Dale recalled.

"She inspired me to get involved properly in politics. She was an amazing leader, and a leader for that time - Britain needed a strong leader who was going to carry out some important surgery to the economy."

"She turned the economy round in a way that people now don't seem to appreciate. She was the greatest prime minister this country has had since the war."

In 2002, he would sit next to her during an event in London: "she was very good company" he recalled.

Mr Dale founded his university's Conservative Association and worked as a research assistant to Tory MP for Norwich North, Patrick Thompson after graduation.

After spells working in financial journalism, public affairs and business - he founded a political bookstore and coffeehouse and a publishing company - he stood in the 2005 election in the marginal seat of North Norfolk.

Identified as one of the Tories' top targets, he had the task of over turning a mere 483 Liberal Democrat majority. Instead, incumbent Norman Lamb demolished him, increasing his majority by more than 10,000.

"I had two ambitions in life," Mr Dale reflects. "I wanted to be an MP or a radio presenter."

"But North Norfolk proved to be a big mistake as Norman Lamb was a good MP. A friend in the Lib Dems had

**“ She was an amazing leader... Britain needed a strong leader who was going to carry out some important surgery to the economy. ”**

**Iain Dale,**  
on influence of Margaret Thatcher

warned me not to go for the seat."

He went on to act as chief of staff to losing Tory leadership candidate David Davis in 2005, and the following year was added to the Conservatives' 'priority list' of candidates to fight the next election.

But when he made a bid to stand for the seat in Maidstone and the Weald, vacated by Ann Widdecombe, he didn't even get past the first interview stage. Helen Grant would eventually get the nod and win the seat.

In 2009, he attempted to be selected as the Tory candidate for Bracknell in the 2010 election but failed. Admitting candidly afterwards he thought the phrase 'openly gay' "appeared a little too often for my liking" in the local media.

Later that summer he announced on his popular political blog he would not seek to be a candidate for any future election.

Today, he admits he is not even a member of the Tory party.

But if the first of his ambitions had eluded him, within months he had



**OBSESSION:** Iain Dale has spent much of his life involved in the corridors of power at Westminster

achieved the second when he was hired as a presenter on London talk radio station LBC. Since then his media presence has grown, and is now a regular on Sky News too.

"The radio show gives me what politics used to give me. It's exciting," he said.

"You've no idea what's going to happen. Incidents happen which you have no warning of, and that's when you find out how good you are as a broadcaster."

Dale had thought his show would focus on politics - but discovered a talent for and love of human interest stories and emotional topics instead. He was shortlisted in two categories in mental health charity Mind's media awards in 2012.

"There are calls which stick in your mind. There was a man on the M25 who was on the phone for 20 minutes - he said he was going to kill himself that night," Mr Dale recalled.

"He was very matter of fact about

it. I asked him to stay on the line and talk to the producer. The next day he phoned back and said he had tried to kill himself, but had thought about what the producer and I had said to him and called an ambulance.

"The secret is not to judge, to let people tell their story and empathise with the situation they found themselves in. You are not a counsellor."

As he tells me another tale - that of a caller in her 50s who said she had once been raped at a family wedding

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by a family member - he has tears in his eyes.

"She said she had never told anyone, and now she felt a weight had been lifted off her shoulders," he said.

"The next day she phoned back and said she had told her husband. He had completely understood. She said: 'I feel as if I can see the sky again.'

"Calls like that mean far more than interviewing the prime minister."

His interest in politics remains undimmed, however.

His blog, Iain Dale's Diary, is one of the most read political blogs in the country; his publishing company, Biteback, published Nigel Farage's autobiography Flying Free and is publishing his forthcoming work The Purple Revolution; and he regularly appears on news and current affairs programmes to talk about politics.

He's happy in his private life too.

Mr Dale moved to Tunbridge Wells in 1997 to live with his partner John. After 13 years together, they had a civil partnership ceremony at Wadhurst Castle in June 2008, a day he describes as "perfect".

So what are his predictions for Kent at the general election? Rather tame, as it turns out - apart from Nigel Farage winning Thanet, and Rochester and Strood going back to the Tories (after Mark Reckless switched to Ukip mid-term), he thinks nothing will change.

"I don't see Labour winning anything - they would only win the north Kent seats if they won a massive majority," he said.

"I assume South Thanet will be a straight fight between the Tories and Ukip, and I think Farage will squeak a win, but it's going to be very close.

"I think Farage has a very difficult election there, as he's not going to be able to spend as much time there as he needs to. And people in Thanet may not want someone who's going to be in the national spotlight - a party leader can only devote so much time to the constituency.

"But the devil in me wants him to win as I think he will make politics a lot more interesting."

He is more confident in his prediction that Kent's first Ukip MP, Mark Reckless, will not retain his seat.

"His majority at the by-election was not as large as people thought it would be," Mr Dale said.

"A lot will depend on what happens to the Labour vote. The Ukip win was in large part because a lot of Labour voters voted for Reckless. If they go back to Labour, which they may do at a general election, he's in trouble."

Across the country, he predicts that Labour will win about 300 seats, Tories 280, and Liberal Democrats 24 ... resulting in major instability.

"The likelihood is that there will be another hung parliament, and it will be for Ed Miliband to try to form a coalition with the SNP or the Lib Dems," Mr Dale said.

"But I don't think the SNP are going to get as many seats as everyone says. I think the Greens are going to struggle to keep the seat they have, and Ukip will get five or six seats.

"It is going to be messy; it could take some time to work out what's going to happen.

"I think there could be a second election within six months."

He believes it is important for politics that Ukip and the Greens do well.

"It sends a signal to the other par-



**FUTURE:** What will election bring for Messrs Farage and Reckless?

ties that they need to change the way they do things," he said.

And does he wish he was standing for election again himself?

"I would have loved to have been an MP and I think I would have been quite good," he said.

"But I would also have been a nightmare - I think I would have run

the risk of being the male equivalent of [out-spoken Tory MP] Nadine Dorries. I wouldn't have toed the party line, and I wouldn't have become a minister because I would have broken ranks too often.

"Most MPs I know who got in at the last election hate it. It's not the job they expected; they are taken no no-

tice of and treated like rubbish.

"I think politicians are unfairly traduced. I'd say around 95 per cent are in it for the right reasons and want to do a good job.

"But I've got a brilliant job which I love; I wouldn't think of going back."

• **Iain Dale presents drive on LBC between 4-8pm on weekdays.**

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# Geek rides the wave of gaming's relentless growth and influence

**Chris Murphy** looks at how thousands will flood to Margate this month to celebrate the video game

**U**NDER-estimate the video game industry as a mindless fleeting past-time of the pubescent male at your peril.

Because not only is it riding on a wave worth close to a remarkable £3 billion in this country alone, with more than 30 million people actively taking part, but its reach now extends through the generations.

Whether the games are on PC, tablets, phones or video game consoles, we are a nation addicted to gaming, it seems.

All of which suggests that when Geek (Game Expo East Kent) rolls around later this month, it will once again see thousands flock to revel in the world of gameplay evolution.

Because Geek is a celebration of one of the entertainment world's booming industries - charting its voyage from its arcade roots through to the explosion in our front rooms of consoles and joysticks.

Now in its fourth year, big crowds are expected to attend Margate's Winter Gardens later this month, with organisers promising another broad offering around the high-tech theme.

Kate Neale is director of this year's Geek. She told KoS: "When we launched Geek, Margate used to close in October and reopen at Easter. We deliberately put Geek in February to bring people to play at the seaside in the winter.

"Now the hotels in Margate are

fully booked in February half term. While this is obviously the Turner [Contemporary art gallery] effect, hopefully we have helped too.

"We want to bring exciting new game makers into the area - inspiring local creativity and giving people a chance to meet their role models."

The centrepiece to the event - which also features keynote speakers and discussion panels - is the venue's main arena being turned into a giant gaming venue.

From the latest consoles from Sony, Microsoft and Nintendo, the room will feature games throughout the years.

Machines such as the earliest Atari, Commodore64, ZX Spectrum, Amstrad 464, NES, Sega Megadrive and many more besides will be dusted off and plugged in to provide a genuine walk through the history of a fascinating and fast-changing industry.

Adds Ms Neale: "It is more than playing games in a hall. We have an incredible combination of creative skills coming together in a game.

"Art, design, music composition, creative coding, game mechanics, story-telling and so on. We invite people to play then look under the bonnet and think about the skills that go into making good games.

"The mainstream industry support is building slowly. We have always received amazing support and encouragement from both individuals and organisations.

"A key thing we want to achieve is

thousands of people coming to Margate to have fun."

For all the benefits and advances of video gaming, it has also changed the social lives of our younger generation.

Rather than visit one another's homes, now they can play together online - chatting to each other while they do so via head-sets.

While some may suggest this is stifling the development of social skills, plenty of others suggests it actually encourages it, and all from the relative safety of their own homes.

It is another sign of the remarkable influence of modern day gaming.

Adds Ms Neale: "Games have been the black sheep of the creative sector but people are gradually recognising them for the creative force they are.

"We hope Geek plays a part in this wider understanding of why games are important as well as fun.

"There is an amazing array of people that will be attending - judges and mentors who are working with us on the Unity Schools projects, and YouTubers [those who create content on YouTube and develop their own fanbase] from across the UK and Germany who between them have huge numbers of subscribers

"But remember this is not an industry trade show - this is a family half-term festival where you can meet, make and play.

"The most important people attending might be your friends who you only ever get to meet online.

"It is important to both Margate



**RETRO:** Geek takes a look back at the old and the new in the world of video games from the 1970s to the present day. Pic: David GoodVideo

and the industry because people have been coming to play in Margate for 250 years.

"Geek invites them back. Games and play are a creative innovative art form - there is no better place for a multi million pound industry to have a home than in Margate. And we already have very exciting plans for next year."

The hard facts of the sector tells its own story. The UK games industry is now worth £2.9bn after seen a four per cent year-on-year growth. It now accounts for 40.2 per cent of the country's entertainment industry and it's getting bigger. It is expected to have grown by 23 per cent between 2011 and 2015.

The gamer population has risen too - there are now 33.6m active gamers

in the UK, which is 25 per cent of the European total.

Clearly, the enormous user and interest base has meant creative industries looking to capitalise have cropped up with increasing frequency.

Certainly those behind Geek are hoping to draw inspiration from other events which have acted as a melting pot for those involved in the sector.

One of them was the Centre for Creative Collaboration (C4CC) in London which closed at the end of last year.

Originally set up to last for just two years, it ran for five, acting as a breeding ground of ideas and innovation by uniting various strands of the industry.

She explained to KoS: "We are ask

**Turn to Page 20**

Continued from Page 19

ing what it will take to make it happen here.

"Each year we have a workshop and seminar at Geek when we bring together inspirational speakers to explore just these ideas.

"We need to remind people that Margate is a place of excellence. This year we have asked Dr Brian Condon, the director of the C4CC, to work with us to develop this part of the festival."

Explained Mr Condon: "The 'digital sector conversation' is a key element of the wider impact of Geek and a vital and important contribution to the discussion of economic and social regeneration of Margate and Thanet.

"I am helping with the more 'industry focused' aspects of Geek to raise awareness of the relevance and importance of digital skills, diversity and inclusion. We will bring speakers and delegates of national and international reputation, local businesses, universities, schools and other organisations, to join the conversation.

"For the past five years, I've worked with a team at the Centre for Creative Collaboration bringing universities, businesses and creative practitioners together to deliver valuable projects. We helped artists, creative practitioners, technologists and software people, designers, engineers, architects and others to create new work and new ways of working."

But for many, Geek is a simple opportunity to get to grips with games past and present. For parents to relive their youth, and for their children to witness just how far the quality of graphics has come over the years before settling in for some fast-paced



**GAMERS:** Thousands are set to attend for a weekend of fun

multi-player action.

Last year, some 4,500 attended and set about more than 1,000 games set up and available to play.

It is thought around a third of those attending come from Thanet, with the rest travelling from further afield.

Certainly, judging by last year, the audience was mixed with all ages coming to worship before the soft glow of monitors which illuminate the main arena.

From Pokemon contests to FIFA competitions, there was even a huge section last year devoted to the online gaming phenomenon of Minecraft.

Geek runs from Friday, February 20 to Sunday 22. Events take place on each of the three days - visit the website [www.geek-play.com](http://www.geek-play.com) for full details and how to book tickets.

Prices for Geek 2015 range from £14 for a day pass for an adult (£8 for a child) up to £39 for a three-day adult pass.

# From the arcades to our front rooms

Chris Britchern

towns to our computers, our homes and even our phones

ONCE upon a time, if you wanted to play a sophisticated video game you did so by taking yourself off to an amusement arcade armed with a fistful of 10 pence pieces.

For the seaside towns, it proved a huge draw as they moved their pin-ball tables and fruit machines to one side and ushered in the likes of Space Invaders, Pac Man, Asteroids.

Over the years, they multiplied. The games grew more varied. The boxes they were contained in spilling out into replicas of sports cars, motorbikes; or games where you could pick up fake machine guns to feel more involved.

And the 10 pences morphed into twenties, then fifties and now pound coins.

The likes of Folkestone's Rotunda boomed as young and old alike flocked. Seaside towns saw their seafronts lined with flashing machines and excitable teenagers.

But by the early-1990s the quality of home gaming began to improve. Spearheaded by games on increasingly powerful home computers, and



**MARIO:** Nintendo's superstar

a boom in the likes of the Sega Megadrive and Nintendo's SNES, things started to change.

Slowly at first, but by the time Sony's original Playstation arrived, and marketed fairly and squarely at a

broad audience, the arcades found themselves being caught up.

The decline of video games in the arcades runs parallel to the increasing power of home consoles.

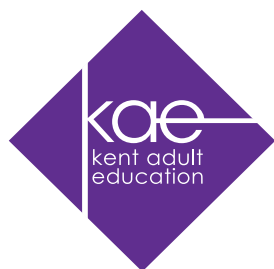
But while the location of where we got our gaming fix shifted, it certainly did not slow.

Consoles and handheld gaming moved from being the domain purely of teenagers to mums and dads and even grandparents.

By the time the Nintendo Wii introduced motion-controls to broaden its appeal yet wider, there were suddenly several generations weened on the video game industry. And boy was it big.

Today, games are everywhere. On our smart phones, on tablets, on our TVs, PCs and, of course, on the latest generation of games consoles.

Whether you are looking for realistic adventures, puzzle-busting, crime-solving or simply a good old dose of saving the planet Earth from an alien attack, there's something for you. You can even control a realistic looking Wayne Rooney and help guide him to lift the FIFA World Cup



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But let's look back for a moment.

Because many will remember the simple pleasures of Pong on the early Atari units - gripping a paddle controller and engaging in a game of tennis which simply consisted of hitting a small 'ball' from one side of the screen to another.

It may have been simple, but it was the spark which would ignite an inferno. From there, the idea of playing games at home became the must-do hobby.

Electronics engineers, developers and of course big business realised they were on to a winner.

Many manufacturers sought to dominate the home market and over the years the likes of Atari and Sega have all stood in pole position at one stage...only to find themselves out-muscled and out-marketed by some of the entertainment world's biggest names with the biggest pockets.

Japanese firm Nintendo has a rich gaming heritage, but the industry's switch from being aimed at children to adults has always left it one step behind. The original Wii was a brief moment when it ruled. But it didn't last long as the likes of Sony with its PlayStation and Microsoft with its Xbox regrouped and blew everyone else out of the water.

Major cultural icons sprang from the machines and have become part of the mainstream. Italian plumber Mario, blue hedgehog Sonic, adventurer Lara Croft...some even made the leap on to the big screen with major movies devoted to them.

Today, walk into any work place or playground and the excited chatter will be about the likes of million-sell-



**LIFE-LIKE:** FIFA 15

ing franchises such as Grand Theft Auto (a huge, sprawling, engrossing game which has perhaps created more controversy over the years than any other - more often than not as it represented the age-shift in the gaming community), Call of Duty or Halo.

Rather than heading to the arcades to play, friends now simply sit in their front rooms, plug in their game console and within seconds they will be online with their pals. What's more, with head sets they can easily chat, safely, while they play. Often even when playing different games.

It is a very different world.

Think you're immune to it? Well, the chances are you've played the likes of Angry Birds, Minecraft, Tetris or one of the hundreds of games you can download for free or for just a couple of pounds on your mobile phone or tab-



**CELEBRATED:** The hugely acclaimed - and often controversial - Grand Theft Auto

let. Gaming, in all its various forms is now all encompassing.

Where once Space Invaders plodded across the screen of a bulky box in the centre of a seaside amusement arcade, today near life-like sprites dance across our high-definition, giant, TV screens in the comfort of our homes. And when you complete a game the chances are you'll simply be able to download new levels and characters online to keep the fun going.

According to official figures released at the end of last year, the UK games industry supports a remarkable 1,902 games businesses.

The number of industry increased by 22 per cent between 2011 and 2013

Jo Twist is CEO of Ukie, the trade body for the UK's wider games and interactive entertainment industry.

She explained: "We know that the



**SHOOTER:** Popular franchise, Call of Duty

UK's games sector is again becoming a real global success story. We now need to build on these statistics to help support these clusters and encourage more investment and sup-

port for the sector, to make the UK truly the best place in the world to make and sell games."

Geek, this month, is an opportunity to revel in a remarkable industry.

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# Hospitals told health must improve after inspectors deliver latest reports

Care Quality Commission findings blow for hospitals in Tunbridge Wells, Maidstone and Gillingham

**T**HE trust behind some of the biggest hospitals in Kent have been licking their wounds this week after receiving poor reports from government health inspectors.

The Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) was told it 'requires improvement' while the Medway NHS Foundation Trust was told it was inadequate, when the Care Quality Commission

(CQC) issued its report this week.

The MTW Trust runs the Tunbridge Wells at Pembury and Maidstone hospitals.

The Medway Trust oversees the Medway Maritime in Gillingham. It is no stranger to such responses.

In the summer of 2013, it was put into special measures amid concerns over mortality rates.

Its last inspection, last summer, also saw it termed 'inadequate'.

In November, it was revealed to have one of the worst performing accident and emergency departments in the country, further heaping the pressure on management.

As a consequence, the trust ushered in a new management team last year, and says it will need 18 months to turn its fortunes around.

The latest CQC report – following an unannounced visit in December – recognised improvements since the

last inspection in August, but that more needed to be made.

Inspectors have told the trust it needs to improve leadership and inter-disciplinary working in the emergency department, implementation of the initial 15-minute assessment in the emergency department and the way theatre services are delivered.

Dr Phil Barnes, acting chief executive at the Medway trust, said: "The CQC report demonstrates that a small improvement has been made at the trust.

"However, the new executive team recognise that there is still much to do to ensure patients get a consistently high quality of care and patient experience.

"The board remains firmly committed to making the changes that are required."

The MTW Trust was told it 'requires improvement' and given an 'inadequate' rating for leadership.

The trust, which has 700 beds across two main sites and employs around 4,700 staff, was visited by inspectors from the Care Quality Commission in October.

It rated the £225m Tunbridge Wells at Pembury Hospital - opened in 2011 and boasting private rooms for all in-

patients – as 'requires improvement' across all services bar critical care which was branded 'inadequate'.

And although the trust's services were rated as 'good' for being caring, it 'requires improvement' for being safe, effective and responsive.

The trust insists it has already taken steps to resolve the problem and already ushered in a host of new measures. It says it remains 'committed' to overcoming all the challenges.

The CQC found leadership within the trust was not robust, and that neither governance processes nor the culture within the trust could ensure that services would be of high quality.

Of the positives, inspectors found staff were caring and compassionate, and that they treated patients with dignity and respect. Both hospitals were visibly clean, with falling infection rates.

Patients considered that they had been given sufficient information and counselling to enable them to make informed decisions about their care and treatment.

Inspectors also found, however, that patient flow across the trust was poor. Patients deemed fit to be discharged from intensive care units fre-

## THE £225M PFI HOSPITAL WITH SKY HIGH EXPECTATIONS

THE Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury has become a curse and a blessing to the west of the county.

Costing some £225m, when it opened in 2011 it was one of the most modern in Europe.

Boasting some 512 beds, it is the only NHS hospital in the county to offer private rooms for all in-patients.

When it opened - replacing the former Pembury Hospital which stood on the site prior to the re-build - it incorporated services previously offered at the Kent &

Sussex Hospital in the centre of Tunbridge Wells. It was closed and the site sold for housing.

But the state-of-the-art facility came at a cost.

Funding was secured via a private finance initiative (PFI). That means money is obtained by private sources and paid back over a period of, typically, 20 to 30 years.

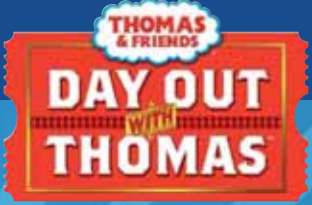
The benefits are that it allows funding to be secured and work to get under way. The drawbacks are that paying the money back must

carry on regardless of funding or economic conditions.

Bosses at the Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury must make payments of £20 million a year for some 32 years. With the bill rising with inflation, it does mean the trust has to ensure it meets payments from the funding it receives from Government.

Hence any concerns about the quality of care delivered at the site. With such a flagship project, high quality care is demanded.

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**CARE:** The hospital at Pembury is one of the most advanced in Europe



quently experienced significant delays in being transferred to a ward and scheduled operations were cancelled due to a lack of available beds.

While levels of nursing staff were generally good, medical cover in the intensive care unit was not consistent with national core standards and created a risk to patients.

There were insufficient numbers of single rooms at Maidstone hospital to meet people's needs.

This impacted on the privacy and dignity of patients, especially those who were on an end of life pathway.

Maidstone Hospital was rated 'requires improvement' overall. It was rated as 'good' by inspectors for maternity and gynaecology, 'requires improvement' for urgent care, medical care, surgery, children's care, end of life care and outpatient services, and 'inadequate' for critical care.

The CQC's chief inspector of hospitals, Professor Sir Mike Richards, said: "When we inspected the hospitals we saw that quick work was needed to improve the governance of the trust and of a number of the core services we inspected. There was a

great deal of variation, both in the ability of the senior directorate level management teams to run their services effectively, and in the level of robust clinical oversight of services.

"While the trust acknowledged immediately that these improvements needed to be made when we told them so, we should not have needed to tell them – which highlights how much this work is needed.

"Across both hospitals, we saw staff treating people with dignity and respect, and we noted their willingness to engage with the inspection process.

They saw our time there as a good way to drive improvements in the care the hospital provided, and helped us build up an excellent picture of current good and poor practice within the trust.

"The trust has told us they have listened to our inspectors' findings and begun to take action where it is required."

Glenn Douglas, chief executive of the MTW Trust, said: "We are disappointed not to be rated good on this occasion and have taken immediate steps to address the actions in this report.

"We have been open and transparent with the CQC to help identify our strengths and weaknesses, welcome their recommendations, and are driving through further improvements for our patients.

"It is clear that our staff are providing kind, compassionate care, are treating patients with respect and dignity, and that we have areas of good and outstanding practice to emulate throughout our hospitals.

"We have come a long way as a trust and are committed to going a great deal further."

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# Typhoid epidemic which ripped through county town, killing 132

Typhoid continues to be a major killer around the world, but in 1897, it arrived in Maidstone. Nearly 2,000 people became infected with many dying. **Molly Kersey** takes a look back at a deadly outbreak



**A**S HEALTH chiefs around the world cautiously advise of the end of the worst of the Ebola outbreak in west Africa, it was not all that long ago when our county town faced an influx of cases of a potentially fatal disease.

At the very end of the 19th century, the country was all too familiar with typhoid (see box).

An accepted threat for years, when Maidstone's medical officer received the latest report of a case of the illness in August 1897, he thought little of it.

He was used, after all, to dealing with six or seven cases every year.

But when the four month epidemic ended in December there had been 1,847. Some 132 cases had proved fatal.

The county town became referred to by some as the 'town of black crepe' – a reference to so many wearing mourning gear following the loss of a loved one.

Schools and businesses were shut down and public gatherings were cancelled while the ill were cared for.

President of the Kent Archaeological Association Ian Coulson explains: "It was a public health issue to do with fresh water and in particular getting rid of the sewage. It was all too often a combination of the two. If the water became infected, it became a major problem.

"The town was closed down. It was pretty grim. There were some quite acrimonious reports in the newspapers about who was to blame for this – the council had reduced the number of tests on the water a few months earlier.

"Schools were closed; church bells and factory whistles were silent. The law court sessions were transferred to Canterbury and public gatherings were cancelled.

"Town councillors and water company officials were pilloried in the local press."

Earlier in the 19th century, Kent had experienced similar epidemics of an equally deadly disease, cholera, in areas including Tonbridge, Sheerness and Sheppey.

This led the medical officer to suspect the town's water supply and his investigations revealed supplies from the Maidstone Water Company's reservoir at Barming, distributed

through a pumping station at Farleigh Bridge, were responsible.

Mr Coulson added: "Before 1896, samples of the water had been tested at monthly intervals but in the interests of economy Maidstone Town Council reduced the interval to quarterly.

"The last tests before the 1897 epidemic were made in June.

"Later, the South Eastern Gazette newspaper commented that the epidemic was the penalty of such economy.

"In 1898, a public inquiry reported that it had 'no hesitation' in concluding the epidemic was caused by pollution of water supplied by the Maidstone Water Company from its Farleigh sources."

Epidemiological investigations uncovered that there had been 1,583 cases among customers who were supplied with water from the Farleigh area.

There was also evidence of faecal contamination of the area around the nearby Tutsham Spring.

Action was taken to treat the reservoir and stop the spread of further infection.

"After the outbreak began," Mr Coulson explained, "a successful trial of a typhoid vaccine was carried out among the staff at Barming Mental Asylum which led to its general use in the armed forces.

"On October 16, the reservoir at Barming was treated with chloride of lime and acid, perhaps the first attempt at the chlorination of a public water supply.

"The town council issued a handbill, recommending the boiling of all drinking water and milk.

"A free laundry was opened to wash and disinfect all clothing and bedding from houses where there had been cases of typhoid, and the houses were disinfected with



**RECOVERING:** The epidemic saw church halls and Army tents used as make-shift hospitals

sulphur and carbolic acid."

And people in the town banded together to help those who were ill.

"Emergency hospitals were opened, staffed mainly by volunteer doctors and nurses," said Mr Coulson.

"The emergency hospitals varied. They used church halls and schools. The schools were closed because, of course, it's an infectious disease. The key was to try and isolate people if at all possible.

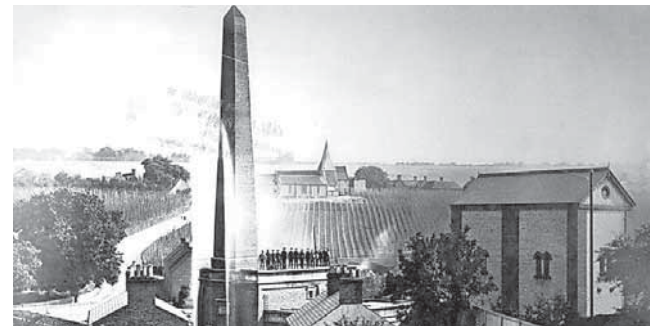
"Quite a few people came down from London as volunteers.

"There was a temporary nurse in Maidstone at the time who became quite famous; Edith Cavell. She was the nurse who in Berlin helped British soldiers to escape and was shot by the Germans in 1915."

He added: "Local people did their best to help and a public 'Stricken Maidstone' fund to assist the poorer townsfolk was opened. Even Queen Victoria sent some money down.

"Out-of-town traders and would-be visitors stayed away and businesses suffered in spite of advertisements in local newspapers that their merchandise was safe and in no way connected with the water supply.

"People were very hard pressed because it was before you had money from the government in the event of being off work, and people's businesses were shut down. It was the last really big typhoid epidemic."



**CAUSE:** Outbreak was traced back to Farleigh pumping station



**APPEAL:** Support flooded in from many, including Queen Victoria

## WHAT IS TYPHOID?

TYPHOID is a bacterial infection, caused by *Salmonella typhi*, related to the bacteria that causes salmonella food poisoning – and it is highly contagious.

If someone drinks water or eats food that has been contaminated with faeces or urine that is infected,

the bacteria travels from the digestive system into the blood.

It can spread throughout the body, affecting a number of organs including the lungs, liver and kidneys, and without quick treatment it can be fatal.

Symptoms that develop include a

high fever, headache and stomach pain.

Because of the way that it is spread, the infection is most common in areas that have poor levels of sanitation and reduced access to clean water.

While controlled in Europe due to

sanitation techniques, it is still a major killer. Globally, the latest figures suggest 161,000 died of the illness in 2013. That was down from 181,000 in 1990.

Symptoms include a fever and rash on the upper body. It can be treated with antibiotics or vaccines.



# Pub Landlord raises a glass on election campaign trail

Comic Al Murray's comedy alter ego touched down in South Thanet this week ahead of poll

COMEDIAN Al Murray came to meet the electorate this week as his campaign to become an MP picked up pace.

Appearing as his alter ego the Pub Landlord, he intends to compete in the South Thanet seat at May's general election.

The seat, which will be vacated by the Conservative's Laura Sandys, who is stepping down for personal reasons, has gained huge publicity already after Ukip leader Nigel Farage announced his intention to stand.

After a strong showing in the local and Euro elections, Ukip's support there is strong. However, as Ukip support appears to be levelling out, he is likely to face a tough scrap against Conservative candidate Craig Mackinlay.

All of which means Al Murray's main battle will be the simple task of getting his deposit back - the £500 payment each candidate must make, and which they only get returned if five per cent of the vote is secured.

The publicity he will generate for his Pub Landlord character - as this week's appearances demonstrated - will deliver a far more lucrative return.

He received considerable national coverage and is likely to continue to do so up until polling day.

The Pub Landlord is representing his very own Free United Kingdom Party - the unsub-

tly acronym FUKP.

During his visit, which saw him catch the train into Margate, he attended a meeting for prospective candidates at the offices of Thanet District Council, visited the Rose pub, toured a local brewery and met students at the Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs.

He also unveiled a poster urging locals to 'Vote Guv for Guv'norment'.

Speaking outside the council offices, he said: "I heard destiny's call like a trumpet in the far distance and it sounded like it was saying Thanet, so Thanet had to be the place."

**Key policy proposals in his 'common sense' manifesto include:**

- On the economy: The pound will be revalued at one pound 10p - so it will be worth 10p more

- On the NHS: If you come to a hospital A&E department and it's neither an accident or emergency, you will be sent to a random hospital department to be practised on.

- On immigration: To brick up the Channel Tunnel. With British bricks ('although we'll probably have to get some Poles to do it').

- On Europe: A pledge to leave Europe by 2025. And 'the edge of the solar system by 2050'.

- On local issues: To make South Thanet the new capital of the UK and to establish a demilitarised zone between North and South Thanet.



**CHEERS:** Al Murray enjoys a beer, meets the media and visits the Dreamland Expo site this week



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**ATTRACTIVE** black, athletic lady, varied interests, seeks similar white, old fashioned, genuine male for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416215

**MAY** sexy black African female, 38, hardworking, seeks generous friendly male for mutual rewarding friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416211

**ATTRACTIVE** female, seeking single male to enhance my happy life. Enjoys travel, good conversation, walking and music. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4564712

**SUE** young at heart, good looking, enjoy life, socialising, beach walks, gardening, theatre, seeking male, 55-65 to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416171

**JACKIE** 32, attractive professional, very smart and feminine, long brown hair, seeks smart, confident, older male who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416297

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399

**BECKY** 23, classy blonde, long blonde hair, blue eyes seeks loving older guy to spoil and pamper her. Discretion assured/guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416233

**ADVENTUROUS** sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301

**LINDA** 26, cheeky, curvy brunette, a little shy at first, likes to look after herself, seeks dark haired male for discreet naughty but fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416195

**ANNE**, mid 40's, cheerful busy couple affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. Tel No: 0905 002 1953 Box No: 410291

**TERESA** 39, petite, cuddly and bubbly seeks kind older male to travel, have fun, and take care of, pamper and flirt with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416081

**DISCREET** lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. Aca. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 409901

**LISA** attractive petite Filipino female, very lonely, wanting to find love, companionship and to be happy, looking for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415549

**PAMELA**, married to boring man! Text only for fun phone frolics. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624149

**SUE** 65, 5ft 8ins, blonde hair, fashionable, smoker, GSOH, enjoys meals out, travel, animals, WLTm kind, shyish man for friendship, maybe more. Thetanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415735

**JULIA**, seeks fifty shades of grey! You should be strong minded and seeking fun. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627445

**BLONDE** female, 47, looking for fun, sensual, experienced, understanding, seeking similar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415675

**SUSIE** bubbly blonde looking for fun. Age/looks unimportant but must have a sense of adventure. Can travel and accommodate. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624145

**PHILLIPPA** 22yrs just left boarding school, hoping to meet experienced working class man for real life fun. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624147

**BLACK** lady 43, sincere, down to earth, fun loving, likes theatre, cinema, meals out, walks, seeking white gent with GSOH, sincere and down to earth. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415477

**SLIM** brunette 36yrs hoping to meet older gent for friendship, fun, maybe more. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624146

**JENNY** voluptuous blonde tanned well presented female, enjoys being and giving pampering, cooking, cosy nights, looking for some broadminded excitement. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415399

**PAMMY** 42yrs, recently divorced and fancies becoming a "cougar". Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4624148

**JOYCE** 39, attractive GSOH, loves nights out, honest, loyal, fun to be with, looking for mature male for adult companionship, meals out and hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415561

**SARAH** 29yr old pretty slim single mum of one, interesting, lively, good fun, enjoys nights in/out, music, seeking similar easy going, genuine, honest man/dad to get to know. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415841

**MELANIE**, sophisticated solvent brunette wlm working man of any age, im 32yrs. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627443

**ANGIE** attractive nurse 39yrs, new to area/advertising, likes dog walking, being sociable, meals in/out, WLTm honest, fun male for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415827

**LINDY**, new to area, hoping to meet kind many of any age, looks unimportant. Im 43yrs blonde and petite. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4627444

**DOONNA** 36yrs un-moist but very attractive, nice eyes, good figure, GSOH, OHAC, great job, sick of never meeting Mr Right, looking for someone special. Genuine male please. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415187

**ELDERLY** Redhill male, seeks slim lady to reignite ones thoughts of female company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416221

**ACTIVE** honest, reliable, loyal, N/S male, 70, varied interests, seeks slim, positive, 60's lady for friendship and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415931

**QUIET** easy going gent, likes nights in/out, seeks kind, caring white female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416055

**MATURE** businessman, seeking slim, independent young female for mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 416023

**ASIAN** male, 68, US educated, seeks black/European female of similar age, discreet, East London. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415997

**BRITISH** white professional male, seeking intelligent, independent Asian/black female, 30-42 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415961

**WHITE** Spanish male, 42, work full time, seeks African lady, 20-45 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415941

**JOHN** 67, gentle, easy going, good natured, seeks affectionate, loving black female, any age for friendship and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415913

**MIKE** Canterbury mature male, seeks single mum/lady, 28-42, slim-medium build for loving, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415275

**NICOLETTE** 32 petite professional attractive black female looking for similar hardworking white male who like me loves life and is serious about finding a LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415545

**PAT** blonde blue eyed curvy, cuddly female, attractive, likes swimming, gardening, holidays, my job/home, looking for happiness with quiet content grounded male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415533

**MANDY** 35, petite attractive slim female with very GSOH, likes to keep fit, meals in/out, WLTm genuine child friendly guy/dad for fun times together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415513

**JACKIE** very pretty leggy well-mannered/educated 28yrs old female, loves nights in/out, sports, WLTm sincere male up to 35yrs for friendship, hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414361

**DEBBIE** brown eyed attractive social female, romantic, good listener, loves children, looking for similar nice male/dad to get to know, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414383

**JOHN** own business, blue eyes, dark hair, loving, caring, tactile, 5ft 10ins, own home, likes to wine and dine, come and meet me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414987

**LADY** companion wanted for older gent, good position in life, likes travel, property abroad etc. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414821

**FEMININE** sensual female, slim-medium build wanted by slim, kind male for daytime meets, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414809

**OUTGOING** male, seeking attractive female, likes sports, music, cinema and nights out. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414793

**GARETH** handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421

**SINGLE** male, early 50's, seeking female for discreet meets, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414347

**39YR** old guy, 6ft 2ins, slim-medium build, seeking female for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414259

**LADY** companion 60-70 wanted for elderly gent, likes travel with property abroad. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414133

**AMIALE** intelligent male, 77, light smoker, seeks slim lady for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413217

**MATURE** male, looking for discreet meetings with female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413039

**FRANK** 54, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, smoker, seeking friendship with mature female, 40-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412893

**ALISON** 27yr old very bored broadminded female with plenty of free time on her hands looking for some adult fun times. Call me, I won't disappoint. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415177

**DEE** lonely divorced female, slim, bubbly, attractive redhead, loves cuddles, looking for a man who can restore my faith in love and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414961

**JACKIE** extremely sensual lady but for your eyes only! Likes horses, keeping fit, gardening looking for genuine love interest and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414721

**TERI** separated single lady, blonde, blue eyes, slim, WLTm compatible male for genuine friendship, meals out, weekends away, nights out and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414361

**ANDY** young 66, widower, honest, caring, affectionate, GSOH, looking for LTR with lady 60's, slim and likeminded. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415093

**JOHN** own business, blue eyes, dark hair, loving, caring, tactile, 5ft 10ins, own home, likes to wine and dine, come and meet me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414987

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**FRANK** 54, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, smoker, seeking friendship with mature female, 40-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412893

**GRAHAM** tall, semi-retired, Piscean, likes sailing, seeks female, any nationality. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415463

**SIMON** 49, actor, likes music, films, reading, puzzles, loop holes, ambiguity, seeks pretty leggy female, 35 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415447

**SIMON** 49, actor, likes music, films, reading, puzzles, loop holes, ambiguity, WLTm very pretty, leggy female, 6ft plus, 40 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415155

**PAUL** early 60's, fit, smart, GSOH, WLTm female for some casual times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415113

**ANDY** young 66, widower, honest, caring, affectionate, GSOH, looking for LTR with lady 60's, slim and likeminded. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 415093

**JOHN** own business, blue eyes, dark hair, loving, caring, tactile, 5ft 10ins, own home, likes to wine and dine, come and meet me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414987

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**FRANK** 54, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, smoker, seeking friendship with mature female, 40-60. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412893



**67YR** old male, slim, 5ft 11ins, many interests, likes holidays, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023

**MALE** seeking Asian female, any age, outgoing, likes outdoors for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413965

**KEEN** cyclist 58, non-competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

**MALE** seeking Asian female, any age, outgoing, likes outdoors for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413965

**KEEN** cyclist 58, non-competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

**MALE** seeking Asian female, any age, outgoing, likes outdoors for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413965

**KEEN** cyclist 58, non-competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

**MALE** seeking Asian female, any age, outgoing, likes outdoors for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413965

**KEEN** cyclist 58, non-competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337

**MALE** seeking Asian female, any age, outgoing, likes outdoors for fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413965

**JAMES** young, free and single, please give me a call if interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412345

**EX** headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263

**MALE** 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thetanet area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235

**BESIDE** the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, leggy, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223

**45YR** old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship. Herne Bay area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993

**CHIPS** on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725

**MALE** 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477

**DEREK** seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433

**WRITER** tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749

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**ACTION:** Nick Broomfield in a familiar pose



## BAFTA-winner Broomfield on capturing a serial killer

We speak to Nick Broomfield ahead of Kent screening of *Tales of the Grim Sleeper*

VETERAN filmmaker Nick Broomfield's new documentary *Tales of the Grim Sleeper* is coming to Canterbury later this month

The director, who has been awarded a lifetime achievement BAFTA award, is well-known for his ground-breaking style, and his influence can be seen in films by Michael Moore, Morgan Spurlock and Louis Theroux.

His most recent offering, *Tales of the Grim Sleeper*, looks at the story of Lonnie Franklin Jr, who was arrested in July 2010 after a 25 year killing spree in which, it is thought, he could have killed more than a 100 victims, potentially making him the most prolific serial killer in history.

Significantly his arrest was not the product of painstaking detective work but completely accidental, the result of a computer

DNA match that linked him to a possible 20 victims.

Franklin now awaits trial.

The murders all took place in the south central area of Los Angeles, the poor part of the city with the worst schools, the worst hospitals, and no jobs. The Lonnie Franklin Jr case has become very political in Los Angeles, amidst accusations that the reason the killings were able to go on for so long was because the victims were all black African-American women.

The murders were all reported as being the killings of prostitutes, even though it now appears many were not.

What is revealed is a police force that didn't care and a community estranged and abandoned from the rest of the city. A police force that for years used the slang term NHI (No Human

Involved) for murders of prostitutes, drug addicts and gang members.

One of the most striking aspects of the film is how richly Mr Broomfield paints a portrait of the area, getting local people involved who are forthcoming with their stories.

Speaking to KoS, he said: "We spoke to lots of people in the area, and the film hopefully shows that these are proud people, and friendly people.

"You are asking people to share their lives with you, so they have to like you, and also not be bored by you. What we often try to do is give people a voice, who may not have felt that they had one before.

"I think they rarely get the opportunity and I think they have been deliberately disenfranchised by not being asked their opinion.

"Tellingly and touchingly, Pam (someone who features heavily in the film) burst into tears when she saw her picture in the LA Times.

"She said she thought the only time she would be in the paper was for an obituary."

Pam, who played a huge part in the making of the film, got involved through what he describes as a 'happy accident'.

"Pam was so incredibly charismatic and organised, and she knew everyone and introduced us to many people and places. It's wonderful when these accidents happen."

For Mr Broomfield, the Franklin story is part of a more complex tapestry of institutional racism that's woven into the fabric of the United States.

Turn to page 29

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## No-one puts Baby in Kent

GRAVESEND'S Woodville Halls will be hosting the stage version of Dirty Dancing on February 20.

Tickets cost £19.50 or £17.50 for concessions. Call the box office on 01474 337774.



## Calling out to fresh talent

THE Dartford Festival is looking for music acts, dance schools and groups to appear on the main stage on July 18 and 19 at Central Park.

To apply, email your details and relevant YouTube links to festival@dartford.gov.uk by midday on April 8.

## Get crafty with Churchill

CHARTWELL House in Westerham, Winston Churchill's former home is hosting a craft room with games and activities for children from February 16 until 22.

For details, call 01732 868381.



## Classic back in circulation

TOM Stoppard's comedy Arcadia will be performed at The Churchill Theatre from February 16 to 21, as part of its first major tour since 1993.

For more information, visit [www.atgtickets.com/bromley](http://www.atgtickets.com/bromley).

# Famous faces take to stage in gala concert

By Maria Chiorando

[maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk](mailto:maria.chiorando@archant.co.uk)

NEXT month, Dartford's Orchard Theatre will be hosting a show with a bit of a difference.

Coming to the stage will be a variety of performers, hoping to raise money for a couple of charities based in the county.

The charities this gala performance will help are, Demeza House Children's Hospice and Ifield School, for children with profound learning difficulties, and will feature a star-studded line-up.

Among the performers will be former Pop Idol contestant Gareth Gates, Chas Hodges, Bobby Davro, Stavros Flatley, Paul Burling and Twist and Pulse.

Mr Gates has been a favourite since he was a runner-up in the show. He went on to enjoy a career in the music industry, and more recently performed on stage.

Demeza House is a 10-bed hospice providing a large range of hospice and care services to children, young people and their families.

Life-limited or life threatened children or young people and their



families benefit from a wide range of facilities that include a multi-sensory room, soft play, a hydrotherapy pool, and the inclusion zone for young people.

Ifield School is a happy, vibrant and close-knit community with a highly unified sense of purpose and direction.

The school aims to provide an attractive, welcoming and stimulating environment that can develop pupils through the effective and appropriate delivery of the National Curriculum.

They understand that every child has natural talents and abilities that can stand outside of their general underlying ability and seeks to support these.

There are plans to build an arts centre to help educate children with severe learning difficulties.

■ To find out more about the concert, you can visit the theatre's website at [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk).

To book tickets, you can buy online, or call the box office on 01322 220000.



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Continued from 27

"I think this is something that unfortunately goes back to the American constitution, where the founding fathers defined a slave as two thirds of a man – America has not sorted its attitude to slavery," he said. In the 1970s, there was a prison population of around 300,000 people, then drug laws changed, making possession of crack a felony.

"The prison population swelled to three million, a large proportion of whom were black, and then couldn't vote after release."

These issues perhaps insidiously run deeper than many liberal people may think, as Mr Broomfield admits: "People were very

concerned when I said I was making the film here – I am often asked whether it was safe."

Opening the door on this culture for the viewer in this way therefore opens a dialogue. "It invites people into the area," says the filmmaker, "It invites them into cultures they don't know and to be able to do that is a very powerful thing. It makes people less judgemental."

The nature of the documentary making process means that hours and hours of footage are filmed – at what point does the process come to an end?

"I think that part of it is just that you feel that you have probably told the story," he explains.

"You feel that you have enough

characters, and you know when you have answered all your own questions, that you have a story.

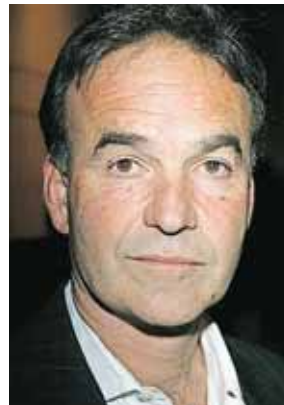
"With this film, we were not sure. We did the first edit to see if we had a film, because we had not got to the trial, and we were thinking about waiting to see if that needed to be included.

"When we watched it though, we felt that the story was there." This is not necessarily the end of his involvement in the Franklin case. He says: "We might do a follow-up, looking at the trial, maybe a series of podcasts."

Nick Broomfield's Tales of the Grim Sleeper will be screened at the Curzon Cinema Canterbury on February 12. The film will air on Sky Atlantic in March.



FRANKLIN: After his arrest



INSIDER: The filmmaker gets under the skin of this world

## Welcome to the Machine

THIS Pink Floyd tribute act will play at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on February 26.

Tickets cost between £29.50 and £40.50.

Call 0844 8713015 for more information.



## Dark comedy on stage

KNOWN for his observational comedy, Dylan Moran will bring his new stand-up show to The Orchard Theatre, Dartford.

The star of Black Books, Shaun of the Dead and Calvary will perform on March 31.

For information, visit [www.orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk) or call the ticket office on 01322 220000.

## Two birds in the hand

NATIONAL nest box week is celebrated at Hever Castle from February 14 to 22. Learn about birds and their nesting habits with an expert.

Tickets cost £8.50 to £42.50. Call 01732 865224.



## Hollywood beckons Peppa

PEPPA Pig will make her big screen debut in a one hour film – The Golden Boots.

The film, which will be screened from February 14 to 19, can be viewed at Odeon, Vue, Empire, Cineworld, Showcase and Picturehouse cinemas nationwide.

To find out more, visit [www.peppapig.com](http://www.peppapig.com).

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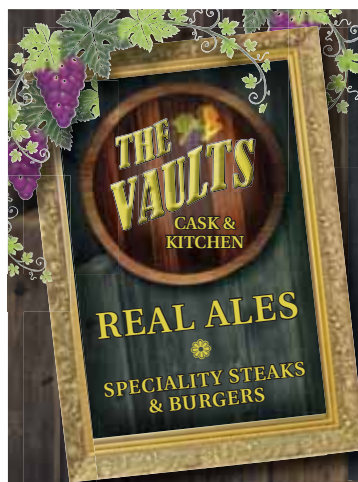
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In 1965, Frank Pataky and his family founded The Bakery Restaurant, with traditional English fare, in a then derelict 15th-century building in the centre of West Malling.

Frank and his son, also named Frank, worked hard together to create a very popular establishment.

Frank senior semi-retired in the late 80s and his son continued to run the business.

He was joined by his son Frank, in the early two thousands.

The restaurant was leased out to Café Belge in 2004.

They changed the menu to a more continental style, with young Frank working with them.

In 2010 he took the business back renaming it Frank's Restaurant and



Mussel Bar as it is known today.

He combined the best of both cuisines, offering a variety of Belgium and European beers and the finest quality mussels in the UK, along with the best of his grandfather and father's beloved English fare.

The two styles of food have mixed



well together, both proving equally popular.

This is in no small part due to Frank's constant vigilance to source the best quality of food he can find, from succulent steaks, tender mussels and sea fresh fish.

The restaurant has a great



selection of food on offer, and their forte is mussels cooked 21 ways.

Frank's aim, like his father and grandfather, is to provide the best he can for his customers.

The atmosphere in the Tudor framed building, with the magnificent original inglenook fire place,

makes for a tranquil setting for dinners be it at lunch time or an evening meal.

The building is full of charm and character.

It has exposed beams and provides a cosy space for customers to enjoy their food.

Please visit [www.franksrestaurantandmusselbar.com](http://www.franksrestaurantandmusselbar.com) for more information about the restaurant, their menus and what they have to offer you.

Alternatively, you can email [enquires@franksrestaurant.com](mailto:enquires@franksrestaurant.com) or call 01732843247.

Frank's Restaurant and Mussel Bar is situated in the bustling, picturesque market town of West Malling.

They are located at 53 -55 High Street, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6QH.

## Friendly and homely pub

THE Yew Tree is a 17th-century, family-run freehouse village pub and restaurant, which takes pride in serving fabulous, fresh food - not fast food - all prepared and cooked from local produce with all sauces homemade.

They generally have only one sitting per session, therefore the table is yours for the evening, unless stated at the time of booking.

They have an excellent selection of well-kept real ales, some local, and a list of hand-picked fine wines to compliment their interesting and exciting new menus that change with the seasons.

They have recently introduced a wide variety of vintage single malt whiskies and brandies, which have become very popular with the locals and as an after dinner treat!

The restaurant is warm and cosy and is laid with table linen, flowers and candles to create an inviting, homely atmosphere with subdued lighting to make any dining experience feel comfortable, from ladies or gents' lunches to romantic evening dinners, birthdays, anniversaries and functions.

A large beer garden has recently been landscaped and added, with features and hanging baskets, which will be an infusion of colour in the summer months.

With two car parks there are plenty of parking spaces available which enable them to cater for most functions, large or small.

The ambience in the pub and restaurant is friendly, with diners, locals and dog walkers alike welcome.

■ The Yew Tree, Grange Lane, Sandling, Maidstone, ME14 3DB. Call us on, 01622 752882 or email [info@theyewtreesandling.co.uk](mailto:info@theyewtreesandling.co.uk)



**ENVIALE:** The restaurant has a fantastic reputation, with fresh ingredients flown in directly from Thailand

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owner, whose family in Thailand have worked in the Royal Thai kitchens.

With fresh ingredients flown in direct from Thailand, the authenticity is guaranteed which has culminated in Pad Thai being one of the first Thai restaurants to receive the prestigious award of a Thai Select Plaque from the Ministry of Tourism and Foreign Affairs at the royal Thai Embassy.

Pad Thai is one of only 16 Thai restaurants in the UK to be awarded a Thai Select PREMIUM award from the Ministry of Tourism and Foreign Affairs at the royal Thai Embassy.

For more information about the restaurant and what they have to offer please call 01732 870000. Alternatively you can email [manta@pad-thai.co.uk](mailto:manta@pad-thai.co.uk) or visit their website at [www.pad-thai.co.uk](http://www.pad-thai.co.uk)

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**Main:** Salmon, lemon and dill fishcakes, served with house fries, lemon mayonnaise and homemade coleslaw.

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# A Parisian affair with va va voom

## TRAVEL REVIEW: Paris

By Susan Griffin

IT'S NO good, the thigh burn's set in and I need to take a break. We're half way between the first and second floor of the Eiffel Tower, so I can at least pretend to be taking in the Paris skyline as I catch my breath.

It's our own fault. My boyfriend and I could have taken the lift, but we decided to opt for the steps - the thriftiest option, at five euros.

Paris might be a must-see, but the city of love doesn't come cheap.

That doesn't mean the French capital is out of bounds as a weekend destination though, you just have to be savvy if you don't want to be left sobbing into your baguette.

It's why we booked our accommodation through Airbnb. Not only is it a cheaper option than a hotel, but taking over someone's home for a few nights (while they're elsewhere) gives you the insider's view to a city.

Our cosy little apartment is on the fourth floor of a beautiful building in the artistic area of Montmartre. Once home to the likes of Renoir, the area has retained its bohemian feel, with quaint cafes and cobbled streets so narrow, you can almost shake hands with the family living opposite.

The Parisians might have a reputation for being austere but even if you're a first-time visitor, there's something comforting about the city's landscape. Perhaps it's because the iconic structures seem so familiar.

Take the Arc de Triomphe, the 19th century monument Napoleon commissioned to celebrate his own victory - standing proud at the end of the vast Champs Elysees, and the Eiffel Tower, of course - a symbol of the city.

We amble down to the famous waterway that snakes its way through the city and watch boats packed with holidaymakers drift beneath bridges,



**OH LA LA:** Paris is the perfect destination for romance

before moving onto the well-heeled 6th arrondissement (Paris is made up of 20 administrative districts) of St Germain des Pres.

Admittedly, we didn't realise how affluent the area was until my boyfriend's beer arrives, at a cost equivalent to £8. It's a one-off, we tell ourselves, and direct our attention to people watching from our street-side perch, observing the elegantly dressed waiting staff wafting around

the immaculately-coiffed clientele.

Thirst quenched, we make our way to the Pantheon, an impressive neo-classical dome that overlooks the city from its relatively quiet position in the Latin Quarter on the Left Bank and, behind it, find the picturesque St Etienne du Mont, where Owen Wilson waits to be taken back to the Jazz Age in Woody Allen's *Midnight In Paris*.

While walking back to our flat, we come across a great little bar called Le

Commerce on Rue des Martyrs in Montmartre. Bruno, the owner, couldn't have been more generous, keeping us well stocked with herby wedges, olives and cold meats, all on the house while we enjoy a frosted glass of wine that set us back around £3 each. It could have been the wine or the walking, or both, but that night, we sleep soundly.

The next day, feeling refreshed, we pick up warm baguettes and potent

## TRAVEL FACTS

■ Susan Griffin was a guest of Airbnb ([www.airbnb.co.uk](http://www.airbnb.co.uk)), who offer more than 1,000 properties for rent in Paris.

■ Fares on the Eurostar (03432 186 186; [www.eurostar.com](http://www.eurostar.com)) from Paris to London St Pancras start from £59 return.

■ To find out more about Paris tourist attractions, visit [en.parisinfo.com](http://en.parisinfo.com)

cheese and walk to the 17th century Palais-Royal, for a picnic in the grounds among pink rose bushes, striking fountains and tree-lined walkways. It's also opposite the Louvre, one of the world's largest museums, which houses Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*.

We pass the glass pyramid that dominates the courtyard at the museum's entrance and head towards the 14th century Gothic cathedral of Notre Dame. But not without stopping off at the charming shops that sit facing the Seine along the Quai de la Megisserie.

That evening, we journey back to Montmartre and make our way, via the steep cobbled steps and the 'love wall' in Place des Abbesses (where I love you is daubed in an array of different languages), to the Artists' Square in Place de Tertre where the likes of Picasso used to live.

To this day, artists still set up their easels to paint tourists, but we decline the offer of an (undoubtedly unflattering) caricature in favour of light bite in a lovely old restaurant, and watch the world pass by as dusk creeps in.

It's the perfect way to say au revoir to the city and return home with a few spare pennies in our pockets.

## Film Reviews by Damon Smith



**SELMA (12A, 128 mins)**  
Drama/Romance

MORE than 45 years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr, director Ava DuVernay honours the memory of the leader of the US Civil Rights Movement with this impassioned biopic. While there are lingering doubts about the

historical accuracy of *Selma*, the emotional wallop the film delivers is beyond question.

In particular, the recreation of the iconic march over the Edmund Pettus Bridge chills the blood.

Wilkinson brings a touch of desperation to the most powerful man on Capitol Hill.

Luther King Jr had a dream and through the lens of DuVernay's film, we are minded that we must all continue to chase it.

**SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE (U, 85 mins)** Animation/Family/Comedy/Action

BRISTOL-based Aardman Studios works its stop-motion animated magic on a colourful big screen adventure for the mischievous sheep, who first appeared in Wallace and Gromit's 1995 escapade *A Close Shave* and has been baad to the bone in a

self-titled CBBC series since 2007.

Stop-motion visuals burst with colour and action sequences are orchestrated with mind-boggling technical precision.

There are some lovely interludes here like Shaun's temporary incarceration in an animal shelter, which also houses a psychotic cat from the same litter as Hannibal Lecter and a dog with BARK and BITE tattooed on its knuckles.

As with other Aardman offerings, the animators' imprints are occasionally visible in the expressive clay protagonists, which is part of the film's undeniable charm.

**JUPITER ASCENDING (12A, 127 mins)** Sci-Fi/Fantasy/Action/Romance

HOLLYWOOD needs - but probably couldn't afford - more filmmakers like Lana and Andy Wachowski. In 1999, the Chicago-



born siblings pioneered the slow-motion "bullet time" effect in *The Matrix* and its impenetrable sequels. The Wachowskis are daredevils, willing to go out on a limb to realise their epic visions, even if the limb snaps under the weight of their bold ambition.

The bough certainly breaks during *Jupiter Ascending*, a bombastic space opera with a

muddled narrative glued together by jaw-dropping digital trickery.

In 3D and IMAX, the writer-directors serve up a feast for the senses, choreographing aerial battles at dizzying speed to the propulsive clatter of Michael Giacchino's score.

You get what you pay for and *Jupiter Ascending* is a dazzling, cacophonous yet almighty mess.



I DON'T want to put a dampener on romance, but I really begrudge my husband paying a fortune for roses on Valentine's Day when the same money could have gone on a living rose that I can plant in my garden and enjoy for years to come.

There are many types of roses but if you want to plant them among other specimens in beds and borders, then English Roses by David Austin are probably best, they are repeat-flowering, reliable and often disease resistant. Good red roses are difficult to breed.

The challenge is to get a good combination of both fragrance and health and dark red roses in particular are subject to burning in the sun. But if you have your heart set on one, look out for Darcey Bussell, a compact, bushy variety which flowers all summer, producing clusters of rosette-shaped flowers of deep crimson and a fruity scent. It's ideal for a smaller garden, a narrow border or even a large pot.

I always find red a hard colour to match, preferring the pinks and pastel shades of other English roses including the fragrant Gertrude Jekyll, which I grow up in my mixed border with Clematis Nelly Moser, a beautiful pink and white-striped hybrid. Together, they provide a stunning display in June and beyond.

Roses are hungry feeders, so make sure you add plenty of organic matter such as well-rotted manure or compost to the soil before planting, digging a hole much bigger than the



**ROMANTIC:** Red roses are often associated with love

## Everything's coming up roses

roots so that they can easily spread out and make sure the surrounding soil is cultivated, not compacted, or the roots won't spread. When planted, the base of the stems should be about 3in (7.5cm) below ground level.

Newly-planted roses will also need to be kept well watered when they are trying to establish. Add rose fertiliser in March or April, at the start of the

growing season, and again in June to repeat-flowering varieties and mulch them with compost in spring.

All roses need four or five hours of sunshine a day during the growing season to thrive, although some can take more shade than others. Avoid areas where there are overhanging branches and dry places where there would be too much competition from

the roots of other trees and shrubs. Climbing roses such as Tess of the D'Urbervilles Climbing should do well on an open north-facing wall.

The taller English Roses will add height and structure to the mixed border without the need for staking, while the more compact varieties are perfect for the front of the border. It is particularly important to plant roses

in small groups in the border as this will create the most pleasing effect.

If you need to fill in space, good annuals which will combine well with roses include love-in-a-mist such as Nigella Miss Jekyll or the feathery Cosmos bipinnatus, with its large single flowers in white, pink and purple.

And then, we come to pruning - but that's a story for another day.

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Farmers better off out of the EU

AS a retired arable farmer I read your article in KoS last week with great interest.

But let's be clear on one thing – the EU has been an absolute disaster. I will give just one instance as far as I was concerned.

I used to grow a considerable amount of potatoes and when the UK entered into the Common Market all sorts of quangoes were set up by what ever UK government was in power.

For me, it was the dreadful Potato Marketing Board. I, like most growers, had to buy quota or permission to grow potatoes. It was a levy on each acre of land that potatoes were grown on – a nightmare to administer.

Eventually, after several decades, it was scrapped but the money you had paid to get the quota was not returned to the growers. No, that just disappeared. In my case, over £70,000. Trying to get it repaid never came to anything. Classic Europe.

Many other branches of agriculture fell foul of similar systems. Milk marketing, horticulture, fishing – it was a classic cock up where we had the biggest and finest fleets on the planet until Europe took over and bought our fishermen to their knees.

Apple and pear production – all ruined by eurocrats.

No, the sooner we are out, the better for all. We had an Empire that we traded with and now that old Empire is strong and growing and we are trading strongly with those nations and we do not have to pay for the privilege of doing so.

**Colin Timms,**  
Preston, nr Canterbury

## Immigration is our real threat

LAST week's KoS had an article on 'Why leaving the EU would devastate our rural landscape'.

In 2014, after taking into account those people that emigrated, Britain's immigration figure was 260,000.

Add in births, and Britain's population growth is well above double the EU average. After all these people are housed, their welfare, jobs, transport needs are catered for, how much 'rural' land will there be?

It seems odd to me that groups like the Campaign to Protect Rural England support our EU membership, yet at the same time oppose all the infrastructure that this population explosion demands?

**Terry Hudson,**  
Whitstable

## Why does EU prove so costly?

HAVING read through the article

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Determined to offer you the best care

THE Care Quality Commission (CQC) has published three reports on Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells hospitals this week (see p22), containing the detailed findings of, and recommendations to emerge from, inspections that they carried out last October.

We are proud of the fact that our staff are almost universally recognised in the reports as being caring and compassionate by both the CQC inspectors and our patients, and that they displayed a willingness throughout the review to use this as a positive opportunity to improve.

There are also areas of outstanding practice noted by the CQC including the Maidstone Birth Centre, maternity services at Tunbridge Wells, work on dementia care and our breast care service.

Our overall CQC rating is 'requires improvement'. Although we are disappointed not to be rated 'good' on this occasion, the CQC recognise that we have used the review process in a positive way to help build up an "excellent picture" of our strengths and weaknesses to proactively "drive through improvements in care".

It has been our aim to be open and transparent throughout the review, to make the process as

beneficial as possible for our organisation, our staff, and ultimately our patients.

The reports therefore fairly reflect the improvements we have made in recent years, our many areas of good practice, and the actions we must take (many of which are now underway or completed), and some we should consider, to reduce possible risks to and further improve our patient care.

A Quality Summit was held by our trust and CQC on January 29 to openly discuss the reports with our many partners.

It was recognised we have a clear understanding of our responsibilities, that actions are underway where any urgent improvements are required, and a robust process is in place to monitor progress. At the same time, we are collaboratively addressing some of our long-term challenges that require the assistance and support of our partners.

It continues to be our aim to have two vibrant hospitals in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells that collaboratively provide patients with the highest standards of care.

**Glenn Douglas**  
Chief executive, Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust

## Praying for our precious church

THANK you for your thoughtful and interesting article about the changing faces of some of our churches (KoS, 25.01).

I am 85 and became an Anglican in 1947. I was glad you included the photo of Meopham Church which I attended in the 1950s.

However I was sickened to see what had happened. The Victorians "improved" many churches and their work is now often

derided. I believe the destruction of pews will be judged in a similar manner in years to come.

Meopham has a church hall and did not need acting or dining space. In the fifties it was quite common for a final hymn at evensong to be sung prayerfully on one's knees. There was a 'holy' atmosphere as soon as one entered the church and silence was felt and kept. The Meopham Church chairs look of good quality but how uncomfortable if one chose to kneel or half kneel as was often the custom?

**Margaret Hine,**  
via email

## We must quit Lodge Hill plan

THE chairman of Rochester and Strood constituency Labour Party was reported to claim that "walking away" from the proposed development at Lodge Hill would be "irresponsible" – a position that I will strongly refute.

Yes, Medway needs housing. However, this grandiose scheme will do little to address our real housing needs.

Sure, they've promised some so called affordable housing, but even these do not address the most urgent housing needs.

I predict this; should this evil be perpetrated on the Hoo peninsula, less than 50 per cent of properties will go to those currently registered as living in Medway and virtually no one regarded as being on the 20,000 housing waiting list will benefit. Instead, we'll expand the population of Medway with people piling out of London to exploit cheaper housing. This may even exacerbate our housing problems in the long run.

**Clive Gregory,**  
Green Party Parliamentary Candidate for Rochester and Strood

## Our political 'post tortoises'

OVERHEARD in a Tunbridge Wells nursing home last week was a conversation regarding politicians and their role as our leaders.

An elderly gentleman referred to our politicians as 'post tortoises'.

Not being familiar with the term, his visitors asked him what a 'post tortoise' was.

The answer came: "When you're driving down a country road and you come across a fence post with a tortoise balanced on top, that's a post tortoise."

Confusion and puzzled looks led to a further explanation of: "You know he didn't get up there by himself, he doesn't belong up there, he doesn't know what to do while he's up there, he's elevated beyond his ability to function, and you just wonder what kind of idiot put him up there to begin with."

**Edward La Coste**  
Lamberhurst





## Riverside Country Park by Stewart Nicolaou, Gillingham

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By Steve Loader  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

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**GROWING:** 'Cinquecento' branding had already been stretched to the 500L MPV – now it appears on a smart new crossover cum SUV... the 500X

## Fiat's fab 500 supermini family keeps on growing

FIAT knew it had a winner with the retro 500 supermini, and has since sought to turn 'Cinquecento' into a sub-brand – without worrying too much, apparently, about how much family resemblance there is.

First we had the 500L MPV or people carrier series, which lacks the looks of its little sister, but more than makes up through space efficiency.

And we will soon see the 500 line-up's crossover/SUV contender.

Called the 500X, there is very little similarity with the 500 supermini or 500L, but for a broadly similar front end, but it certainly has style enough to slug it out with rivals like the Renault Captur and Nissan Juke.

Fiat also seems keen to ensure that it can 'talk the talk' more than some of its ilk by offering decent 4x4 power for those who want it – rather in the way the Italian brand does for the Panda.

So the 500X will come in rugged off-road Cross or Cross Plus spec, or as a front-wheel drive urban run-about labelled Pop, Pop Star or Lounge, with a high level of personalisation offered to all customers.

Typically for Fiat, there will also be an advanced powertrain line-up, including a class-leading nine-speed automatic transmission and a range of petrol and diesel options across both



front and all-wheel drive versions.

Fiat claims it has successfully carried over the retro interior styling of the 500 itself, but added new switchgear and 5.0 or 6.5-inch touchscreen Uconnect infotainment systems on all versions, but for the entry level Pop. As the name suggests, this is compatible with smartphones

after the relevant Apple or Android Uconnect apps are downloaded.

Practicality comes from a generous 350-litre boot, which can be extended by the 'Fold&Tumble' rear seats and fold-flat front passenger seat.

Fiat 500X prices start at £14,595.



# Vauxhall Corsa – revolution by evolution

Latest and most sophisticated incarnation yet of Vauxhall's big-selling supermini defies any suggestion the brand has not been ambitious, writes **Steve Loader...**

If you count its 1983 debut in the UK as the Nova, the Vauxhall Corsa is now in its fifth generation.

Some might query that numbering though because, by Vauxhall's own admission, the latest Corsa (from £8,995) represents "evolution rather than revolution".

To be fair though, market research suggested this course when Vauxhall set out to replace its three or five-door supermini star, a point underpinned by robust sales in the twilight of the old Corsa's production run – 84,000 sales in its final year, making Britain the No1 Corsa market, with Germany a laggardly no2 with 50,000.

So exterior and internal dimensions are pretty much identical, though there is more room front and back and all body panels except the roof are new, benefiting from smart family styling cues evident on the bigger Astra and Insignia.

Nothing much new about the underpinnings either, since there was not much wrong about the Corsa's chassis and handling, but this new model has been tuned to UK roads – officially some of the worst in Europe, and likely to be worse after winter.



Where the UK's second best-selling supermini, after the Ford Fiesta – the UK's No1 selling car overall – did need help was in the engine department, and that's clearly where the big money has been spent.

The undoubted star here is a first-of-a-generation of all-new

Vauxhall engines, a three-cylinder 1.0-litre turbocharged petrol engine and six-speed gearbox in 90PS (89bhp) or 115PS (114bhp) tune with fuel and emissions saving Start/Stop technology.

"Three-pot" units are a Holy Grail for manufacturers, being cheap to build,



lighter and more compact, and delivering many operating efficiencies.

Unfortunately, they can also be noisy so-and-sos, because of the inherent imbalance of an odd number of cylinders – I previously described one such engine as sounding like angry pheasants caged

## Vauxhall Corsa SRi 1.0T (90PS) 5-dr

Price:	from £14,025
Driving appeal:	★★★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Fiesta

under the bonnet.

No such 'fowl-up' with the Corsa though; the engineers have done a wonderful job of smoothing the eccentricities of three pistons driving the crankshaft, to create an engine that is refined, lively and economical.

Added to that is a fun element that makes this unit attractive to cash-strapped younger buyers, whether installed in the Corsa itself, or its posh handbag/manbag class MINI-rivalling Adam sister model, or Vauxhall's new city car, arriving soon and reviving the old Viva name.

This entertainment comes in the form of light but responsive steering, and a crisp gearchange well able to make use of a thick band of power from low down the rev range; this is a little car you can press on with if necessary while also cruising on the motorway... Operation Stack allowing.

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**VAUXHALL**

**Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Vauxhall New Corsa range: Urban: 36.2 (7.8) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 57.6 (4.9) - 94.2 (3.0), Combined: 47.1 (6.0) - 88.3 (3.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 140-85g/km.\***

Personal contract hire offer on New Corsa Limited Edition 1.2 3dr and New Corsa Excite 1.2 5dr on orders received between 16 December 2014 and 1 April 2015, subject to availability and status. Age 18+ only. Figures for New Corsa Limited Edition based on a non-maintenance contract hire package with advance rental of £537, then 24 monthly rentals of £179. Excess annual miles over 8,000 charged at 5.53ppm. Excess charges also apply if you breach manufacturer servicing or maintenance guidelines or if the car exceeds BVRLA Fair Wear & Tear guidelines for its age/mileage when it is returned to Vauxhall Leasing. Package includes Road Fund Licence and Vauxhall Assistance. Guarantee/indemnity may be required. Prices and details are subject to change without notice. You will not own the car. For full specification and T&Cs contact your local Retailer. ALD Automotive Ltd., trading as Vauxhall Leasing, BS16 3JA. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. \*Applicants must hold a full, valid driving licence and be 18 years or over to qualify for a test drive. #MPG figures are official test data and may not reflect real driving results.



By Steve Loader  
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk



**NEW CONTENDER:**  
Hyundai's smart second generation i20 supermini is the new kid on the block.

## Car registrations hit 10-year high

By Steve Loader

If car registrations are anything to go by then the UK economy, helped by growing business and consumer confidence, is really motoring.

According to the industry's mouthpiece, the SMMT (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders) there were 2,476,435 new cars registered in the UK last year – the most in a calendar year since 2004.

It was also the fourth-largest figure of all time, with the UK market growing 9.3 per cent ahead of 2013, contrasting with an EU average of 5.7 per cent, and also making us the EU's second largest motor market, behind Germany and ahead of France, Italy and Spain.

And while city cars and superminis now dominate sales due to the drive to economise and downsize, there was relatively huge growth in the plug-in car market – electrics and hybrids – from 3,586 units in 2013 to 14,498 in 2014.

SMMT chief executive Mike Hawes said: "UK new car registrations returned to pre-recession levels in 2014, as pent-up demand from the



recession years, combined with confidence in the economy, saw consumer demand for the latest models grow consistently and strongly.

"The year was particularly strong for alternatively-fuelled vehicles as increased choice, coupled with a growing desire for reduced costs and greater efficiency, resulted in a quadrupling of plug-in car registrations over 2013. With a variety of new plug-in models expected in 2015, this area of the market will continue to grow significantly. For the market as a whole, we expect a more stable 2015 as demand levels off."

The rising trend of recent years has also been driven by flexible financing and, notably,

the boom in the PCP (Personal Contract Plan) schemes that help motorists work out exactly what their monthly motoring budget will be.

Many would-be buyers have also realised that buying a more economical and modern new car is a morale-boosting way to use savings, which may be earning little or no interest at present.



**SPOILT FOR CHOICE:**  
booming market offers a wide range from big-selling superminis like the latest Skoda Fabia, to versatile crossovers like the Nissan Qashqai, and sporty hatches like the Alfa Romeo Giulietta

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Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation i20 range: Urban 30.7 (9.2) – 80.7 (3.5), Extra Urban 53.3 (5.3) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 42.2 (6.7) – 88.3 (3.2), CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions 155–84g/km. Fuel consumption: figures shown are based on official EU test figures. These are to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect all driving results.

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# Thinking small dominates buyers' minds

By Steve Loader

**S**OARING motoring costs have driven a rapid downshift in the car size we prefer. Fuel, insurance, greater environmental awareness, and punitive road tax on larger cars, have all played their part in turning us away from the typical family car, once epitomized by those ubiquitous Fords, the Cortina, Sierra and Mondeo, and squeezing us into family hatchbacks first, and now superminis.

The supermini, and even smaller city car, account for around 40 per cent of new car sales, followed by family hatchbacks with around 25 per cent of registrations.

It might not be long though before family hatchbacks are under threat too from the new kid on the block, the crossover. As the name implies, this straddles several sectors by being part family hatch, part MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) or people carrier, and part SUV (Sports Utility Vehicle) and is highlighted by cars like the Hyundai ix35, Renault Captur and Peugeot 3008.

Nobody is saying this burgeoning sector will catch the supermini/city car though, which packs so much into a small package.

Even the commonality of the two-box supermini shape – dictated by the need for compact on-road dimensions – can be addressed by



**IN THE CITY:** the newly-launched Renault Twingo



**SUPERMINI STAR:** Toyota's stylish Yaris



**RETRO STYLE:** the Fiat 500

ever more imaginative customization. This might be a roof of a

different colour, pattern or decal such as a flag, or it could be special

wheels, bespoke door mirrors, or a wild paint job - superminis might

have similar proportions but they don't have to look alike.



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# If you must think bigger...

By **Steve Loader**

**S**UPERMINIS rule the UK car market, but many buyers need more space for their family or to pursue an active or sporty lifestyle.

Fortunately, the motor industry has become adept at identifying niches within niches – where a car showroom might once have carried a marque's four key models, there may now be as many as a dozen.

The SUV (sports utility vehicle) and MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) are two of the most popular alternatives.

Rough, tough 4x4 styling inspired the former, but when drivers realised they simply weren't using the full off-road capacity, the complexity was reduced and the

SUV or 'soft-roader' was born. Latterly, these are increasingly available in frugal front-wheel drive only form.

The MPV's one-box style and height evolved from the need to carry the maximum number of people and their luggage; a sort of posh minibus for which the term 'people carrier' was quickly coined.

The usual five or seven seats are also installed with flexibility in mind so that they can be folded in any combination or even left flat, turning the MPV into a useful van.

Not happy to leave it there, manufacturers then realised they could marry both types and add a dash of family hatchback driveability, to create the crossover.



**4X4 WITH CLASS:** the newly-launched Land Rover Discovery Sport, below, the Skoda Octavia Estate is also available as a 4x4

But not everyone is convinced by these newcomers, so there has also been a revival of the estate car, not that it's often referred to so humbly – sports tourer, ST and other variations are more likely.

This is because modern estates are expected to say more about your active living. Indeed, many are described as 'lifestyle estates'.

where looks are often given priority over load-carrying prowess.

Nevertheless, an estate is still a superior carrier to an equiva-

lent hatchback and some versions even have a higher ground clearance and 4x4 for limited off-roading.



**SMART, SMALL AND FLEXIBLE:** the Nissan Note family hatch cum MPV



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[motorline.toyota.co.uk](http://motorline.toyota.co.uk)



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**NUI5 REG**

\*0% APR representative available on new retail sales ordered between 3 December 2014 and 31 March 2015 and registered and financed by 30 June 2015 through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ. Toyota Dealers are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions. \*The services will follow the standard Toyota service schedule and should be conducted at the normal intervals (10,000 miles or 12 months) at any Motorline Toyota Centre.





**LOOK AFTER IT:** modern cars like the sporty Subaru BRZ, Peugeot 108 city car and newly-arrived Jeep Renegade are more reliable, but must still be cared for to maintain their value

# Caring for your new 15-Reg motor

By **Steve Loader**

**O**WNERS used to service and maintain their own cars as much as possible, but it's now largely left to the professionals. And though modern cars are far more reliable than ever before, we still have a tendency to ignore faults and stretch service intervals longer than we ought to, endangering the warranty and provenance

of the vehicle when we come to sell – and that could cost you money.

So, having bought a new 15-Reg car:

- Stick to the service record. Get it serviced at the correct mileages or annually and ensure the servicing book is stamped up, although many motor marques are switching to centralised digital records.

- Read the warranty thoroughly to ensure there are no possible pitfalls that could endanger the

guarantee.

- Act on recalls from the manufacturer, even if they do not relate specifically to safety – it will help maintain the warranty and future saleability of the car.

- Buying new or having a MOT certificate once the car is three years old does not guarantee the car's safety and reliability – even if has just passed its MOT test. Problems can arise at any time and must be checked as soon as possible.

- Check lights regularly for safety and legality. Get used to 'Lighting up' in the garage or when you are nosed in or backed up to a wall.

- Check tyres – including the spare – monthly, and that includes the correct pressures. Though the legal tread depth is 1.6mm, most motoring authorities advise replacement at 2mm, especially in winter conditions.

- Keep oil, windscreen washer, coolant, power steering, clutch and

brake fluid levels topped up without over-filling, and make those checks on level ground. Don't wait for warning lights; it could be too late to prevent damage or compromise safety.

- Replace wiper blades. There is little point in keeping the washer topped up if the blades are worn or split. And if the windscreen is covered with bugs and grease, don't expect the washer and wipers to do the job for you – use a spray and elbow grease.



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01622 795666 [www.guysalmon.maidstone.landrover.co.uk](http://www.guysalmon.maidstone.landrover.co.uk)

Official fuel consumption figures for the Land Rover range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 15.4 (18.3) – 47.9 (5.9) Extra urban 29.1 (9.7) – 62.8 (4.5), Combined 22.1 (12.8) – 57.6 (4.9.) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions g/km: 299 – 129. The figures provided are as a result of official manufacturer's tests in accordance with EU legislation. A vehicle's actual fuel consumption may differ from that achieved in such tests and these figures are for comparative purposes only. Details correct at time of going to print. Image for illustration purposes only. E&OE.



# SPECIAL ADDITION

The New Lexus IS 300h Executive Edition  
loaded with luxury features:

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Lexus Navigation

Keyless Entry



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from Lexus

IS 300h Executive Edition		Guaranteed future value / optional final payment	
Term	42 months		£12,600.00
41 monthly payments	£329.00	Finance Deposit Allowance	£1,500.00
Cash price	£30,605.00	Total amount payable	£34,176.59
Customer deposit	£5,587.59	Fixed rate of interest (per annum)	4.53%
Amount of credit	£22,517.41	Representative	5.9% APR*

Representative Example

IS

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IS 300h prices start from £29,495. Model shown is IS 300h Executive Edition £30,605, including option metallic paint at £610. †Centre contribution available at participating Centres only. \*5.9% APR Representative and £1,500 finance deposit allowance and £1,000 Centre contribution available over 42 months on a Lexus Connect (PCP) scheme with 0%-35% deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Only on new retail sales of IS when ordered and proposed for finance between 7 January 2015 and 31 March 2015, registered and financed by 30 June 2015 through Lexus Financial Services at participating Lexus Centres. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 35,000 miles at 12 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Lexus Centre are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Lexus Financial Services is a trading name of Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC. Registered Office: Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The MPG figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. They are provided for comparability purposes, and may not reflect actual driving experience.

IS 300h Executive Edition fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> figures: urban 61.4 mpg (4.6 l/100km), extra-urban 61.4 mpg (4.6 l/100km), combined 64.2 mpg (4.4 l/100km), 103g/km CO<sub>2</sub> (13% BIK)

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- Integrated touchscreen navigation
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3 YEARS' SERVICE PACKAGE £199\*\* UNTIL 31 MARCH

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48 monthly payments of	£169	Dealer deposit contribution	£1,750	Optional final payment	£5,022.50	Duration (months)	49
Customer deposit	£599	Total amount of credit	£11,146	Option to purchase fee	£149	Fixed interest rate p.a.	6.13%
Cash price	£13,495	Finance facility fee	£99	Total amount payable	£13,981.50	6.88% APR representative	

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the cars shown are: urban 40.4 (7)–50.44(5.6); extra-urban 60.1 (4.7)–72.43 (3.9); combined 51.4 (5.5)–62.77 (4.5). The official CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are 127–105g/km. EU Directive and Regulation 692/2008 test environment figures. Fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> may vary according to driving styles, road conditions and other factors.

Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). Terms and conditions apply. Our dealership introduces customers to a limited number of financial providers including RCI Financial Services Ltd. Offer based on 6,000 miles per annum, excess mileage 8p per mile inc VAT. Offers cannot be used with other schemes or finance offers and are available on featured new vehicle when ordered and registered between 3 February 2015 and 31 March 2015. \*Deposit contributions shown are available to new Renault Finance customers when taking Renault Finance on Renault Clio (excluding Clio Expression), Renault Captur, and All-New Renault Twingo. Clio shown has optional Flame Red Renault Ltd. metallic paint, available at £595. Captur Shown with metallic Ltd. paint at an additional £495 and painted roof at £399. Twingo shown with optional Powder Blue paint at £225. †4-year warranty applies to new vehicles when ordered from a UK Renault-approved dealer. Warranty up to 4 years/100,000 miles (whichever comes first). For full warranty terms and conditions visit [www.renault.co.uk/warranty](http://www.renault.co.uk/warranty)

\*\*Service package available at £199 when the vehicle is ordered and registered by 31 March 2015. Visit [renault.co.uk/servicepackage](http://renault.co.uk/servicepackage)



# 'Eco' stands for economy too

**E**NVIRONMENTAL considerations have been the driving force behind making our cars more eco-friendly, but savvy drivers now know that going green also saves money.

Many new models not only help to offset ever-rising fuel bills, but also lower or even remove road tax bills altogether. The latest tax bandings range from zero for cars with the lowest CO2 emissions (below 100g/km) right up to £1,065 a year for gas guzzling limos or 4x4s.

Naturally, anyone spending £50,000-100,000 on a car won't worry about small change like that, but most of us like saving a few quid on fuel and tax while also doing our bit for the environment.

Longer term, electric cars may be the answer, but battery technology must catch up and the emissions argument for electric is misleading.

Until we have zero emission power stations, electric cars simply transfer the CO2 and noxious gas output from exhaust pipe to belching chimney. Production of hydrogen to power our cars raises a similar dilemma.

Are hybrids the answer then? Well, they tend to be dearer upfront, but the savings in running costs and tax can be significant and particularly for company car drivers.

On the other hand, conventional internal combustion engine running costs and emissions are falling while efficiency increases.

In fact, things are moving so fast that you marvel at what Government prodding has achieved.

Most carmakers now have an eco sub-brand, but weigh potential long-term savings against upfront cost - if you don't cover enough miles to make the fuel savings offset the eco car's purchase price, conventional alternatives may be a better bet.

Don't ignore petrol cars either: the higher price of diesels and the fuel at the pumps must be compared with new small capacity low emission/consumption yet lively turbocharged petrol engines.

And if you are considering a supermini or family hatchback, it's probably best to avoid diesel completely unless covering 'galactic' mileages.



**GREENING IT:** the economic and tax advantages of petrol-electric hybrids like the Lexus CT200h, below right, or Toyota Auris Hybrid, below left, are compelling, though diesels like Volvo's V40 Cross Country, above, can achieve towering mpg levels



## MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER PHEV

With the new Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV, we haven't just made a vehicle – we've made stopping at petrol stations a distant memory. Come and discover the fusion of electric and petrol technology that delivers a staggering 148 mpg and creates such low emissions that you don't pay road tax or the London Congestion Charge<sup>1</sup>. We've made history – you just need to make time for a test drive. We call this Intelligent Motion.

UP TO 32 MILES EV RANGE	5 YEAR WARRANTY <sup>2</sup>	148 MPG COMBINED	ULTRA-LOW COMPANY CAR TAX
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**FROM £28,249**  
INCLUDING £5,000 GOVERNMENT PLUG-IN CAR GRANT<sup>3</sup>



## MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER

**SAVE £1,500**  
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INTELLIGENT MOTION

UP TO 53 MPG	5 YEAR WARRANTY <sup>4</sup>	INTELLIGENT 4WD	7 SEATS <sup>5</sup>
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1. Congestion Charge application required, subject to administrative fee. 2. All new Outlander PHEV variants come with a 5 year/62,500 mile warranty (whichever comes soonest), for more information please visit [www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk/warranty](http://www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk/warranty). 3. Prices shown include the Government Plug-in Car Grant and VAT (at 20%), exclude VED and First Registration Fee, Metallic paint extra. Prices start from £28,249 for an Outlander PHEV GX3h 2.0 petrol hybrid automatic (model shown). Prices correct at time of going to print. For more information about the Government Plug-in Car Grant please visit [www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-grants](http://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-grants). Fuel figures shown are official EU test figures, to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 4. £1,500 customer saving applies to all Outlander Diesel variants. Offer is valid between 1st January and 31st March 2015 and is subject to change without notice, available at participating dealers in the UK (excludes Channel Islands). Offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. 5. Prices shown include VAT (at 20%), exclude VED and First Registration Fee, Metallic paint extra. 6. All new Outlander Diesel variants come with a 5 year/62,500 mile warranty (whichever comes soonest), for more information please visit [www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk/warranty](http://www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk/warranty). 7. 7 seats only available on GX3, GX4 and GX4s. Model shown is an Outlander GX4 2.2 diesel manual at £28,999 (including customer saving). Other offers are available - ask for details. Fuel figures shown are official EU test figures, to be used as a guide for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. 57522  
Outlander PHEV range fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Full Battery Charge: no fuel used, Depleted Battery Charge: 48mpg (5.9), Weighted Average: 148mpg (1.9), CO2 Emissions: 44 g/km.  
Outlander diesel range fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban 39.8 – 44.1 (7.1 – 6.4), Extra Urban 55.4 – 61.4 (5.1 – 4.6), Combined 48.7 – 53.3 (5.8 – 5.3), CO2 emissions 153 – 138g/km.

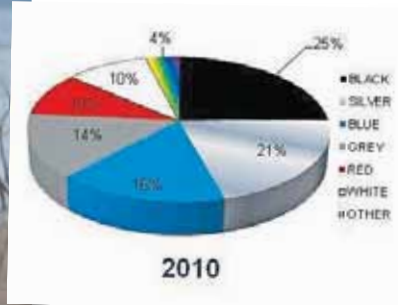
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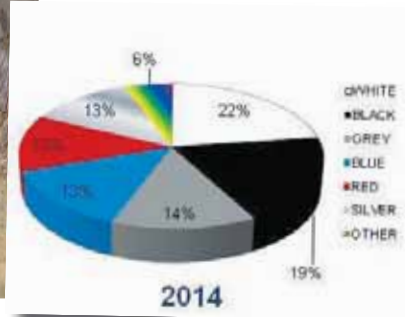
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Graphics: SMMT



**WHITE'S BACK ON TOP:** as seen on this Subaru Forester, while 'gunmetal' or grey metallic seen here on a Lexus IS300h and Peugeot 308, is also popular. Red, as on this Hyundai Santa Fe, is a perennial winner, while Renault's Captur sets its own fashion with this metallic orange.

# Crack the colour code

**W**HITE has enjoyed a recent surge in popularity to become the nation's favourite car colour after years in the doldrums.

Almost a quarter of new cars registered in 2014 were white, the most since records began, and up from less than one per cent a decade ago.

It just goes to prove how hard it is to read the colour code and pick a colour you like and is also trendy, yet will still be saleable later on.

After all, you don't want a dud colour that saddles you with a car that then becomes hard to sell on or part exchange later, like houses once blighted by one of those hideous 1970s bathroom suites, like 'Acid Green' and 'Latte Brown'.

White's return is one of the great comebacks in car fashion though, and is revealed by new figures from the motor industry body, the SMMT (Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders).

These show white was the most popular colour for new cars registered in the UK in 2014 for the second year running – accounting for 2,476,435 or 22.2 per cent of last year's new motors.

Maybe it's a sign of global warming and hotter summers, causing car buyers to choose white because it reflects the heat, as well as handling wear and tear and mechanical car washes well.

If heat is a factor then black's No2 position could be in jeopardy; never far off the top places, it took 19 per cent of the market last year, followed by grey metallic (14 per cent) at No3, but silver – once a strong leader – has now fallen back to sixth place.

Check out these charts, top right, to see who the winners and losers have been in the colour race.





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Call to book a test-drive

Solutions Personal Contract Plan# representative example for the ŠKODA Fabia Hatch S 1.0 MPI 60PS model based on £129 month\*, 30,000 mile agreement.

Recommended on the road price	£11,135.00
35 monthly payments of	£129
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Acceptance fee^	£125
Optional final payment	£4,103.95

Option to purchase fee^^	£60
Total amount payable	£11,992.93
Total amount of credit	£7,821.02
Representative APR	4.9%
Interest rate	3.77%
Excess mileage (inc VAT)*	4.4ppm

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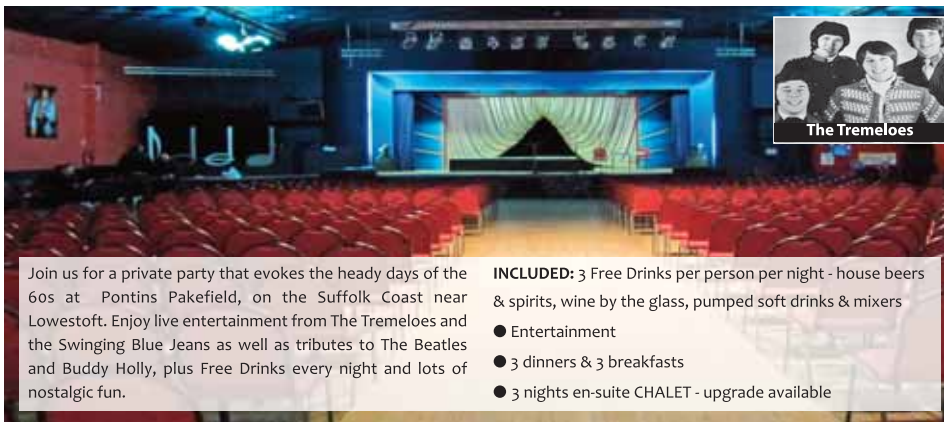
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## Spring Back to the 60s Seaside Party

Pontins Pakefield, near Lowestoft, Suffolk Coast

**£129<sup>PP</sup>** • 3 nights half board plus • Friday 13 March, 2015



Join us for a private party that evokes the heady days of the 60s at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk Coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy live entertainment from The Tremeloes and the Swinging Blue Jeans as well as tributes to The Beatles and Buddy Holly, plus Free Drinks every night and lots of nostalgic fun.

**INCLUDED:** 3 Free Drinks per person per night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Entertainment
- 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts
- 3 nights en-suite CHALET - upgrade available



The Tremeloes



The Swinging Blue Jeans



Buddy Holly Tribute



The Beatles Tribute

**FREE  
Drinks**

**Entertainment  
Each Night**

**Over 40s  
only**

**Quote US3-KOS**

## Bournemouth Spring Party - Suncliff Hotel

**£189<sup>PP</sup>** • 4 nights half board plus • Monday 2 March, 2015



Join us for a spring break at one of Bournemouth's premier 3 star hotels, The Suncliff, situated on the resort's prestigious East Cliff within easy walking distance of all its attractions. The Suncliff has an indoor leisure complex with a heated pool, sauna, mini gym and squash courts with viewing gallery (small charge applies). You will also enjoy a 99p bar and live entertainment every evening.

**INCLUDED:** 99p bar 6-9pm nightly - house beers and spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers

- Live nightly entertainment
- 4 breakfasts and 4 dinners
- 4 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & tea/coffee tray - upgrades available

**99p  
Drinks  
6pm to 9pm**

**Entertainment  
Each Night**

**Over 40s  
only**

**Quote BM3-KOS**

## Worthing Winter Warmer Party - Chatsworth Hotel

**£99<sup>PP</sup>** • 2 nights half board plus • Friday 13 March, 2015



Join us in Worthing for a Winter Warmer Party and enjoy £1 drinks and live entertainment every night. The Chatsworth is one of the finest hotels on the south coast, just a stone's throw from the sea and a short stroll to the town centre. All bedrooms are en-suite and a lift services all floors.

**INCLUDED:** £1 drinks from 7pm to 10pm both evenings - pint of house beer or small glass of wine

- 2 dinners and 2 breakfasts
- Live nightly entertainment
- 2 nights sharing an en-suite bedroom with TV & free wifi

**£1 Drinks  
7pm to 10pm  
Each Night**

**Entertainment  
Each Night**

**Over 40s  
only**

**Quote WO3-KOS**

## Christmas Cracker Party through the Decades

Pontins Pakefield, near Lowestoft, Suffolk Coast

**£129<sup>PP</sup>** • 3 nights half board plus • Friday 20 November, 2015



Original 70s band Brotherhood of Man

Join us for an over 40s Christmas party weekend to remember as we re-wind the decades and go back to the 60s, 70s and 80s at Pontins Pakefield, by the sea near Lowestoft, Suffolk. Add 3 Free Drinks per person per night and you've got the perfect recipe for a great party weekend.

**INCLUDED:**

- 3 Free drinks every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers
- Full entertainment programme
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrade available
- 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

**FREE  
Drinks**

**Entertainment  
Each Night**

**£10<sup>pp</sup>  
Deposit**

**Over 40s  
only**

**Quote CC11-KOS**

## Best of the 60s and 70s Christmas Party

Warner Norton Grange, Isle of Wight

**£239<sup>PP</sup>** • 3 nights semi-all-inclusive • Friday 27 Nov, 2015



Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue.

This Christmas we're featuring music from the 60s & 70s including Edison Lighthouse (Love Grows where my Rosemary goes) plus tributes to Dusty Springfield and Tom Jones and lots of festive and nostalgic fun.

There's also a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.



**INCLUDED:** Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & pumped mixers

- 3 dinners and 3 breakfasts
- Live nightly entertainment
- 3 nights en-suite chalet - upgrades available
- Return car ferry

**FREE  
Drinks**

**Entertainment  
Each Night**

**£10<sup>pp</sup>  
Deposit**

**Car Ferry  
Included**

**Over 40s  
only**

**Quote XN11-KOS**

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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

**Staff Nurse - Ward - Ashford:**

Part time Hours: 30 per week Closing date: 13/2/2015  
Salary: £23k-25k (pro rata), dependent on qualifications and experience

Qualifications and Experience  
• Registered Nurse 1st level

- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Liz Justice, Ward Manager on 01233 616256

**Staff Nurse - Ward - Margate:**

Full time Hours: 37.5 per week Closing date: 13/2/2015  
Salary: Dependent on qualifications and experience

Qualifications and Experience  
• Registered Nurse 1st level

- Evidence of continual professional development
- Experience in a surgical/medical environment with a knowledge and understanding of surgical/medical procedures
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Mary Guarnieri, Ward Manager on 01843 234249

For a job description and application form please visit  
[www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers](http://www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers)

Alternatively, please contact Justine Whittle, HR Assistant  
Telephone: 01304 245943

E-mail: [recruitment@spencerhospitals.com](mailto:recruitment@spencerhospitals.com)

Spencer Private Hospitals is an equal opportunity employer.  
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**Personal Assistant**

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We are looking to recruit an experienced Personal Assistant to work closely with our new Chief Executive providing full secretarial and administrative support. You'll need proven experience in a similar role, attention to detail and well developed communication skills. Please visit our website for more information and to apply.

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Mr B Garrard, Blue Shield Insurance Services Ltd,  
Prospect Road, Hythe CT21 5NS  
or email [employment@blueshieldinsurance.co.uk](mailto:employment@blueshieldinsurance.co.uk)

**Public Sector**

**LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**Application for New Premises Licence**

I Rachel Scaiff hereby give notice that I have made an application to the Maidstone Borough Council c/o The Licensing Partnership Sevenoaks, The Council Offices, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 1HG for the grant of a new premises licence to permit:

1. The sale of alcohol,
2. Provision of Regulated Entertainment and
3. Provision of Late Night Refreshment

In respect of outside events to be held in Rose Yard, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1HN by Source Café Events, Rose Yard, Maidstone Kent ME14 1HN.

The application can be viewed at the offices of the Licensing Authority, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ between 9.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. - Monday to Friday (except public holidays) or [www.sevenoaks.gov.uk](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk)

Any representations against this application must be made in writing and received by the Licensing Service at the above address, by no later than 26th February 2015

Any person may make representations on licensing objectives grounds only i.e. the prevention of crime and disorder, the prevention of public nuisance, public safety and the protection of children from harm. Copies of all representations will be sent to the applicant. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is £5000.

Stephen Thomas LAW,  
8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP  
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicant

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## LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

### HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

#### STOPPING UP OF LAND AT SITTINGBOURNE INDUSTRIAL PARK

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Maidstone Magistrates' Court on 19 March 2015 at 13:45 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on Land at Sittingbourne Industrial Park as edged red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Joy Ukadike by post to Legal Services, The Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ, by email [joy.ukadike@kent.gov.uk](mailto:joy.ukadike@kent.gov.uk), or by telephone 03000 416791 before 9 March 2015 quoting reference number LS/21/103074/657.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Joy Ukadike using the contact details shown above.

JOHN BURR  
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION

Traffic Schemes & Member Highway Fund  
Ashford Highway Depot  
Henwood Industrial Estate  
Javelin Way  
Ashford  
Kent  
TN24 8AD



### Regulation 19 (in accordance with Regulation 20) of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012

#### Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan Notice of the publication of the Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Submission Draft)

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has prepared the submission draft of its Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD). Prior to its submission to the Secretary of State for independent examination, it will be published on Monday 9 February 2015 for a period of six weeks, during which time representations may be made as to the 'soundness' of the document. To be sound, the DPD must be positively prepared, justified, effective and consistent with national policy. Once adopted, the Site Allocations DPD will form part of the Local Plan, which provides the basis for planning decisions across Tunbridge Wells Borough. The document has been prepared in order to allocate sites to accommodate the level of growth identified within the adopted Core Strategy 2010.

The Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Submission Draft) can be viewed on the Council's consultation portal at <http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk> and on the Borough Council's website at [www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/allocations](http://www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/allocations). It is also available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Tunbridge Wells Gateway**, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2AB. The Gateway is open from 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9am-6.30pm on Thursdays; and 9am-1.30pm on Saturdays
- Weald Information Centre**, The Old Fire Station, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 9HF; open from 8.30am-5pm (Monday to Friday)
- All libraries** in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. Please check with the particular library for opening times

The Borough Council will host a series of exhibitions at various locations around the Borough. The dates and venues for these are as follows:

Date	Venue	Times
<b>Monday 16 February</b>	The Ark, Gallard's Almshouses, London Road Southborough	4pm to 7pm
<b>Tuesday 17 February</b>	British Legion, Unity Hall, High Street, Hawkhurst	4pm to 7pm
<b>Wednesday 18 February</b>	Vestry Hall, Stone Street, Cranbrook	4pm to 7pm
<b>Friday 20 February</b>	United Reformed Church Hall, Forest Road, Hawkenbury, Royal Tunbridge Wells	4pm to 7pm
<b>Tuesday 24 February</b>	Wesley Centre, Commercial Road, Paddock Wood	4pm to 7pm
<b>Thursday 26 February</b>	Royal Victoria Place, Royal Tunbridge Wells*	4pm to 7pm
<b>Saturday 28 February</b>	Royal Victoria Place, Royal Tunbridge Wells*	10am to 2pm

\* please check our website nearer to the date for details of the precise location in Royal Victoria Place

Representations relating to the Site Allocations Development Plan Document can be submitted as follows:

- Online at <http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk>
- By e-mail to [planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk)
- By post to Planning Policy, Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS

Only representations made in writing (including electronically), which arrive by the methods specified in (1) to (3) above within the six-week period from 9 February 2015 to 5pm on 23 March 2015 will be considered.



## PLANNING



### Planning Act 2008 (as amended)

#### Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 (as amended)

##### Notice of Regulation 16 Public Consultation on the Shepway Draft Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule and Statement of Representation Procedure

Shepway District Council hereby gives notice that it is preparing a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule for the whole of the district. As part of the process, a draft CIL Charging Schedule, which sets out the proposed CIL rates applicable to new developments, will be issued for consultation. Representations are therefore invited on the draft Schedule.

The consultation commences on Monday 9th February and ends at 5pm on Monday 23rd March 2014. Responses received after this date will not be considered. Representations should be made in writing, and should be sent by email or post to the following addresses:

- Email to: [planning.policy@shepway.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@shepway.gov.uk) (with 'CIL consultation' in the subject bar)
- By post to - Draft CIL Charging Schedule Consultation, Shepway District Council, Planning & Building Control, Planning Policy, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY

Any person making representations on the draft Schedule and / or associated documents, may request the right to be heard at the examination in public that follows this consultation. Persons making representations can also request to be notified of progress on the submission of the Charging Schedule for examination in public; the publication of the examination recommendations; and the adoption of the Charging Schedule by the Council.

The draft CIL Charging Schedule and supporting documents are available for viewing online at - <http://www.shepway.gov.uk/content/view/full/201786/2061> ; or as hard copy documents at the following locations during normal opening times:

Location	Address
Shepway District Council	Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone CT20 2QY
Cheriton Library	64 Cheriton High Street, Folkestone CT19 4HB
Folkestone Library	2 Grace Hill, Folkestone CT20 1HD
Hythe Library	1 Stade Street, Hythe CT21 6BQ
Lydd Library	Skinner Road, Lydd, Romney Marsh, TN29 9HN
Lyminge Library	Station Road, Lyminge, Folkestone CT18 8HS
New Romney Library	82 High Street, New Romney TN28 8AU
Sandgate Library	Sandgate High Street, Sandgate, CT20 3RR
Wood Avenue Library	Wood Avenue, Folkestone CT19 6HS

For further information please see the District Council's website, or contact the Planning Policy Team on tel.: 01303 853364; or by email - [planning.policy@shepway.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@shepway.gov.uk)



### THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

**Y15/0066/SH** - 16 Twiss Avenue Hythe Kent CT21 5NU - Felling of a Norway Spruce situated within a conservation area

**Y15/0067/SH+** - 2A Castle Road Hythe Kent CT21 5EY - Felling of seven trees subject of Tree Preservation Order No 7 of 1995

**Y15/0040/SH+** - Walnut Tree Mews High Street Hythe Kent CT21 5LW - Erection of a first floor rear balcony

**Y15/0050/SH** - 42 Sandgate High Street Sandgate Folkestone Kent CT20 3AP - Listed building consent for the partial enclosure of the rear courtyard area and other internal and external alterations in order to facilitate the change of use of the ground floor premises from cafe to residential

**Y15/0068/SH** - 1 The Leas Folkestone Kent CT20 2DR - Installation of a replacement balustrade

**Y15/0065/SH** - 18 Tower Gardens Hythe Kent CT21 6DG - Crown reduction of an Elm tree situated within a conservation area comprising the reduction in height by 3 metres and the reduction of laterals by 2.5 metres

**Y14/1428/SH#** - Land Adjoining Fairlight Terrace Lydd Road New Romney Kent - Erection of 21 two-storey dwellings

**Y15/0025/SH** - Little Holt Farm From Dean Bottom To Holt Farm Elmsted Ashford Kent - Erection of a single storey detached building following demolition of the existing structures, together with the addition of doors to the existing garage building

Representations can be made in writing either on line on the Council's website, by email to [planning@shepway.gov.uk](mailto:planning@shepway.gov.uk) or in writing to the Head of Planning and Environmental Health, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY. Please always quote the application reference number. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. Please note that any representations received will be publically viewable on the Council's website.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

# - The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

The applications marked (\*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at <http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

C Lewis, Head of Planning and Environmental Health  
Shepway District Council



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## Billings dismissed in one-day Benoni defeat

KENT County Cricket Club wicketkeeper Sam Billings was promoted to open the batting during the England Lions' final one-day game against South Africa A in Benoni.

But the 23-year-old failed to make much of an impact, only making five runs off nine balls before he was dismissed by a quick catch from the second slip.

Despite the poor showing from Billings, the Kent Cricket Academy graduate took to the crease after Lions skipper James Vince won the toss, and opted to field first.

The team were chasing a target of 288 to win. But they came up well short, to slump to a 78-run defeat.

Despite the loss, the tour was hailed a success with England winning the five match series 3-1.

Billings will be one of the most eagerly anticipated players next season. He shone so brightly at Kent he stole the gloves from long-time keeper Geraint Jones.

Jones subsequently left the county during the close season.



**SPITFIRE:** Billings will return following Lions' victorious tour



**SMITH:** Mos will be hoping top scorer is on good form

## Mos face off against Chelmsford Chieftains

THE Invicta Dynamos will be facing off against the Chelmsford Chieftains tonight in a mouth-watering top-of-the-table clash.

The teams are currently tied at the top of NIHL South Division 1, both with 40 points.

The Mos will have revenge on their mind too, having slipped from their top spot when they last went head to head with the Chieftains.

On that occasion, there was trouble both on and off the ice, when Mos defencemen and brothers,

Charlie and Billy Phillips clashed with Chieftains fans after Charlie was sent off.

That resulted in the pair leaving the team with immediate effect.

This time the Mos will have the home advantage, as they face off at the Silver Blades Stadium in Gillingham at 5.15pm.

The team be looking to improve on the 6-1 loss inflicted by the Chieftains the last time they met, while ensuring the team remain disciplined.

## Kent Senior Cup semi-final ties

MARGATE FC are set to face League One opposition when they face Gillingham in the Kent Reliance Senior Cup.

The two teams will go head to head at the Gills' Priestfield stadium after they were drawn together in the semi-final of the tournament.

The Gills made it through to the semis after their 2-0 win over

Tonbridge Angels.

The Gate went through following a close 2-1 win over Folkestone Invicta.

Ramsgate will host Charlton Athletic in the second semi-final after the Addicks dominant 5-1 win over Maidstone United.

Dates for the two games have not yet been announced.

# Brands Hatch revs up calendar

Another strong line-up for the 2015 season is unveiled



## Motorsport

By Jamie Weir

[jamie.weir@archant.co.uk](mailto:jamie.weir@archant.co.uk)

BRANDS Hatch has announced its line-up of events for 2015.

The race calendar will feature crowd favourites like international car and bike racing, with more than 40 races across the season and action almost every weekend between March and November.

Local hero Shane 'Shakey' Byrne will be gunning for a record breaking fifth world title when the British Superbike Championship drives into the West Kingsdown track three times over the racing season.

The Sheppey racer is going to be facing tough competition after rival

Ryuichi Kiyonari nearly took the title in a tense season finale.

This year's BSB championship will arrive at the world class circuit in April, with riders from across the globe taking to the course to battle it out on the Indy track.

The ever-popular Dunlop MSA Touring Car Championship also kicks off its race season at the track.

The BTCC will hold its opening and closing races at Brands Hatch in April and October, with stars like three time World Touring Car Championship winner Andy Priaulx and Jason Plato set to take part.

Honda racing will also reveal an all new car for drivers Matt Neal and Gordon Shedden at the opening race.

The Blancpain GT Series will bring international GT racing to the race track in May.

The series made its Brands Hatch

debut last year, with Alex Zanardi returning to the scene of his double gold medal success at the 2012 Paralympic Games and storming to fifth place from the back of the grid in his BMW.

Zanardi looks likely to be back again this year, and will face a field of exotic supercars including Audis, Bentleys, BMWs, Ferraris, McLarens and more.

There will be even more GT action in August, when the Avon Tyres British GT Championship will take to the track.

Featuring multi-million pound grids, close racing and drama-filled pitstops, this championship rivals the BTCC in the affections of petrol heads.

The round will be co-headlined by the BRDC Formula 4 Championship. It has always been a proving ground for young drivers on the fast track to Formula 1, so you could watch a champion of the future.

## Ebbsfleet's PHB Stadium set to get a new name

## Football

EBBSFLEET'S PHB Stonebridge Road Stadium will be getting a new name when it is redeveloped, after it was announced by the club that PHB Construction will not be renewing its current naming rights deal.

Fleet made the announcement just a

week after revealing their plans for the redevelopment of the stadium, which is set to cost between £7 and 8 million.

Any new naming rights deal will come at a premium. The name used during a period of significant improvement is often the one which sticks with fans going forward.

The ambitious stadium proposals have been greeted with joy from fans at

the club, with one describing them to KoS as a 'dream come true'.

The club's Ed Miller told KoS the plans were "something out of a fantasy" and that he was hopeful the team would be able "get it right on the pitch very soon too."

The club says the planning application for the new stadium is due to be decided by the council in April.

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:  
Twitter @KentSport Facebook [www.facebook.com/kentsport.3](http://www.facebook.com/kentsport.3)





**EXOTIC:** The GT drivers will be lining up in millions of pounds worth of supercars

The American SpeedFest III in June will be headlined by the NASCAR Whelen Euro Series, the only NASCAR series sanctioned outside of the US.

Truck racing will roar into Brands Hatch in April and November, when the British Truck Racing Championship calls in to the venue.

The November season finale will go off with a bang, including a major fireworks display.

Historic racing fans will love the Masters Historic Festival which takes place in May.

It will feature Formula One cars from the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s and the Super Touring Car Championship for 80s and 90s BTCC cars.

■ Tickets for all of the major events are available now by calling 0843 453 9000 or you can view the full calendar by visiting the circuit's website: brands Hatch.co.uk



**SHAKEY:** Will be fighting for a fifth world title



**FLEET:** The new stadium has been hailed as a fantasy by fans who will benefit from the added features. Pic: Alexander Sedgley

## Sport Short

» Email [sports@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:sports@kosmedia.co.uk) or call Jamie Weir on 01233 653481

### England call up

DOVER Athletic Striker Stefan Payne got the call from England bosses eager to see him play in their forthcoming match against Cyprus.

The Whites player got the nod from selectors for the England C squad after a great season, which has seen him named the team's top scorer in the Vanarama Conference

with 11 goals. He will join the 16-man team for their upcoming game against Cyprus' under 21 squad.

Fellow Whites team mate, striker Tom Murphy, will also join the squad after being called up to the England C contingency squad

It's due to be played in Larnaca on February 17.



**PAYNE:** Loved by fans at Crabble

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12 62	KIA SOUL 1.6 1 5DR, 14,377 Miles	£8,540
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11 61	KIA SOUL 1.6CRDi 2 5DR, 20,655 Miles	£7,127
11 61	KIA SOUL HUNTER 1.6CRDi 5DR, 24,071 Miles	£7,247
09 59	MINI COOPER CONVERTIBLE 1.6 2DR, 28,782 Miles	£8,562
11 61	MINI COOPER HATCH 1.6 Cooper 3DR, 15,985 Miles	£9,823
13 63	NISSAN JUKE ACENTA PREM 1.5dci, 7,248 Miles	£12,378
13 13	NISSAN JUKE TEKNA 1.5dci 5DR, 8,394 Miles	£12,871
13 63	NISSAN JUKE TEKNA 1.5dci 5DR, 3,260 Miles	£13,220
11 61	NISSAN MICRA ACENTA 1.2 5DR, 5,302 Miles	£7,177
12 62	NISSAN NOTE 1.4 N-TEC + 5DR, 8,443 Miles	£8,221
11 61	NISSAN NOTE 1.4 N-TEC 5DR, 25,299 Miles	£9,348
13 13	NISSAN NOTE 1.6 N-TEC + 5DR, 5,900 Miles	£9,480
13 13	NISSAN NOTE 1.6 N-TEC + 5DR, 3,731 Miles	£9,564
11 61	NISSAN NOTE 1.6 N-TEC 5DR, 30,418 Miles	£6,309
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11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5dci N-TEC 5DR, 36,172 Miles	£10,942
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5dci N-TEC 5DR, 35,877 Miles	£11,524
11 11	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5dci N-TEC 5DR, 29,715 Miles	£11,676
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5dci N-TEC 5DR, 21,538 Miles	£12,165
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5dci N-TEC 5DR, 46,526 Miles	£12,288
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5dci N-TEC 5DR, 15,741 Miles	£12,418
07 07	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA+ 2.0 5DR, 19,224 Miles	£7,958
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI 2.0dci N-TEC 5DR, 8,320 Miles	£15,376
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA+ 2.1 5dci, 13,444 Miles	£12,121
10 10	NISSAN QASHQAI+2 1.5dci N-TEC, 21,403 Miles	£10,950
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI+2 1.5dci N-TEC+, 23,341 Miles	£12,821
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI+2 1.5dci N-TEC+, 25,614 Miles	£13,120
11 61	NISSAN QASHQAI+2 1.5dci N-TEC+, 19,071 Miles	£13,405
13 13	NISSAN X-TRAIL 2.0dci N-TEC+ 5DR, 18,806 Miles	£18,411
11 11	NISSAN X-TRAIL TEKNA 2.0dci 5DR, 29,582 Miles	£15,843
11 61	PEUGEOT 207 ACCESS 1.6HDI 5DR, 50,645 Miles	£5,801
12 12	PEUGEOT PARTNER TEEPEE 1.6HDI T, 14,315 Miles	£8,737
11 61	RENAULT CLIO LINE TOM TOM 1.6 GT, 13,057 Miles	£6,378
11 11	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.5dci, 17,167 Miles	£9,060
11 61	RENAULT GRAND SCENIC EXPRESSON 1.6, 6,712 Miles	£7,864
11 61	RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSON 1.6, 5,552 Miles	£6,786
11 61	SEAT LEON ECOMOTIVE 1.6TDI S C, 18,410 Miles	£9,084
11 61	SKODA FABIA 1.2 S DSG 5DR, 10,360 Miles	£7,378
10 60	SUZUKI SWIFT 1.3 SZ3, 12,785 Miles	£6,306



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11 61	VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 SE 5DR, 16,240 Miles	£5,871
11 61	VAUXHALL ASTRA EXCLUSIVE 1.4i VVT, 15,088 Miles	£7,851
14 14	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4i VVT SRI 5DR, 16,689 Miles	£9,817
13 13	VAUXHALL ASTRA ENERGY 1.6i VVT, 4,225 Miles	£9,419
11 61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE 5DR, 22,242 Miles	£8,043
11 61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE 5DR, 5,685 Miles	£8,620
11 63	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE 5DR, 12,582 Miles	£9,889
14 14	VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i VVT SE 5DR, 12,234 Miles	£10,171
11 61	VAUXHALL ASTRA 2.0CDTI SRI 5DR, 9,993 Miles	£8,599
12 62	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4i SPORT, 17,410 Miles	£9,786
12 62	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4i SPORT, 14,447 Miles	£9,909
13 13	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.4i SPORT, 8,700 Miles	£10,032
13 13	VAUXHALL ASTRA GTC 1.6i SRI 3DR, 11,808 Miles	£11,381
12 62	VAUXHALL CORSA ACTIVE 1.2i 5DR, 8198 Miles	£6,706
13 13	VAUXHALL CORSA ENERGY 1.2i 3DR, 8,596 Miles	£6,689
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (a/c) SRI, 12,079 Miles	£8,510
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (a/c) SRI, 9,703 Miles	£8,603
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (a/c) SRI, 9,452 Miles	£8,611
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (a/c) SRI, 9,019 Miles	£8,626
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i (a/c) SRI, 8,648 Miles	£8,641
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SE 5DR, 12,000 Miles	£8,141
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SE 5DR, 9,829 Miles	£8,243
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SXi 5DR, 8,525 Miles	£7,519
14 14	VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4i SXi 5DR, 8,144 Miles	£7,533
11 61	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 1.8i VVT SRI, 24,928 Miles	£8,780
13 13	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0CDTI SE 5, 21,060 Miles	£10,667
12 62	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA 2.0CDTI SRI, 12,377 Miles	£11,875
14 14	VAUXHALL INSIGNIA TECH 2.0CDTI, 6,664 Miles	£16,920
12 62	VAUXHALL MERIVA 1.3CDTI (a/c), 20,451 Miles	£10,028
11 61	VAUXHALL MERIVA EXCLUSIV 1.4i, 5,250 Miles	£7,271
12 62	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA DESIGN 1.6i VVT, 18,434 Miles	£8,965
11 61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE 1.7CDTI, 29,322 Miles	£8,456
11 61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTI, 24,655 Miles	£7,692
11 11	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA EXCLUSIV 1.7CDTI, 5,473 Miles	£8,190
11 61	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE 1.7TD 5DR, 20,928 Miles	£8,594
11 11	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.8i SRI 5DR, 47,853 Miles	£6,212
14 14	VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 2.0CDTI SRI 5DR, 5,504 Miles	£14,399
11 61	VOLVO S40 2.0 SE 4DR, 10,356 Miles	£9,236
11 61	VOLVO S40 2.0 SE Lux 4DR, 45,237 Miles	£8,392

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